

#WWDC19

# Low-Latency HTTP Live Streaming

Roger Pantos, HLS Technical Lead

Why lower latency?

**Crucial for Some Content**

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Sports

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Late-breaking news

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Real-time interactive gaming broadcasts

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Real-time interactive gaming broadcasts

Award ceremonies and other social media events

**How Low?**



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2-8 seconds matches cable satellite TV

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Designing for 1-2 delay (at scale!)

**It's Still HLS**

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Rate adaptation

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Encryption, ads, metadata

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Scales with regular CDNs

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Encryption, ads, metadata

Scales with regular CDNs

Backward-compatible

How To Do It



# Regular HLS Latency

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But simplicity has a cost

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HLS typically lags 20-30s behind live

Client

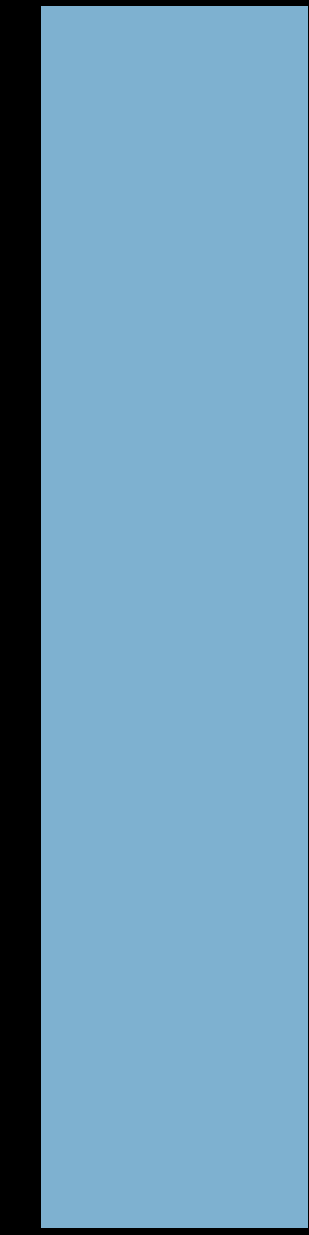
Server



frame #1

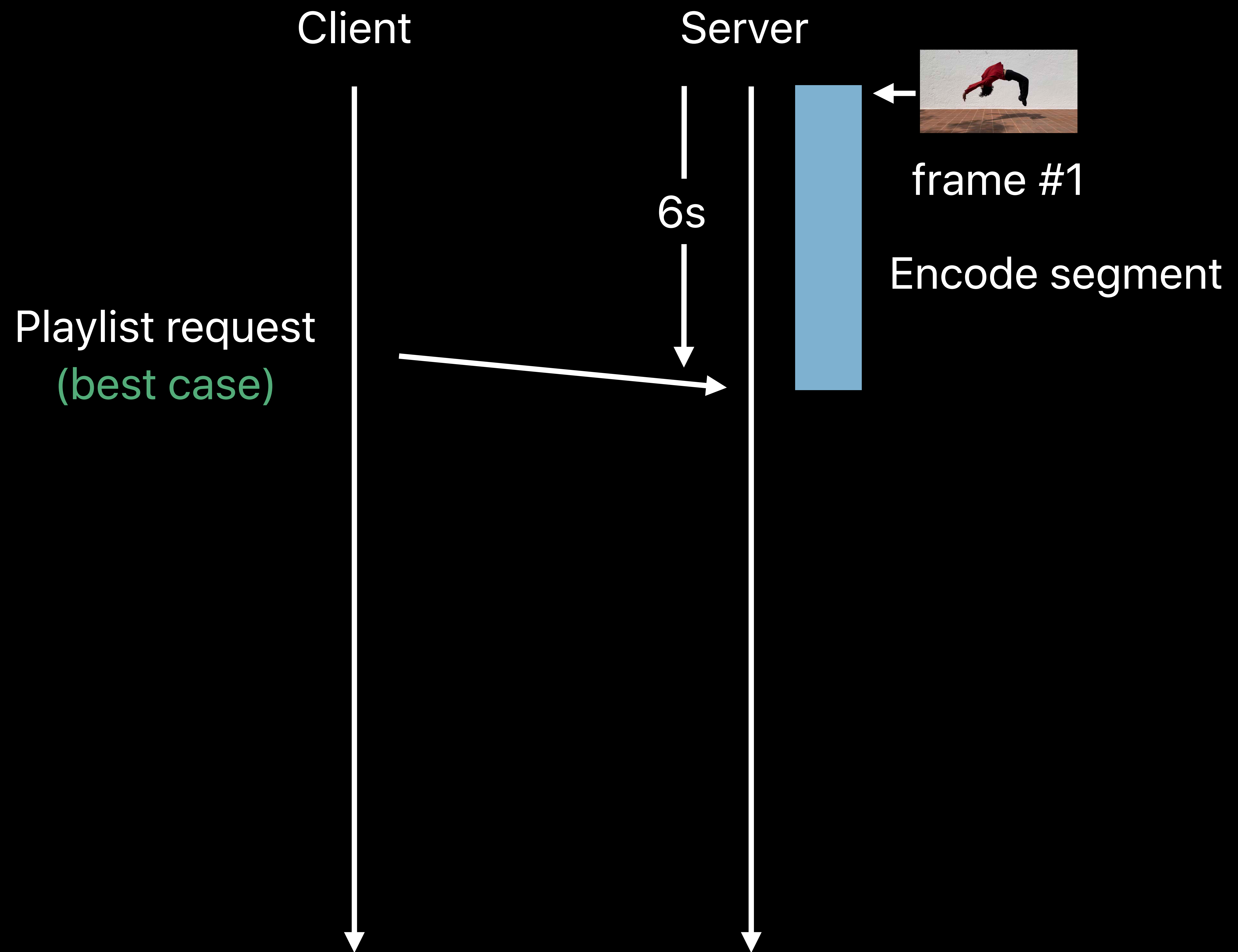
Client

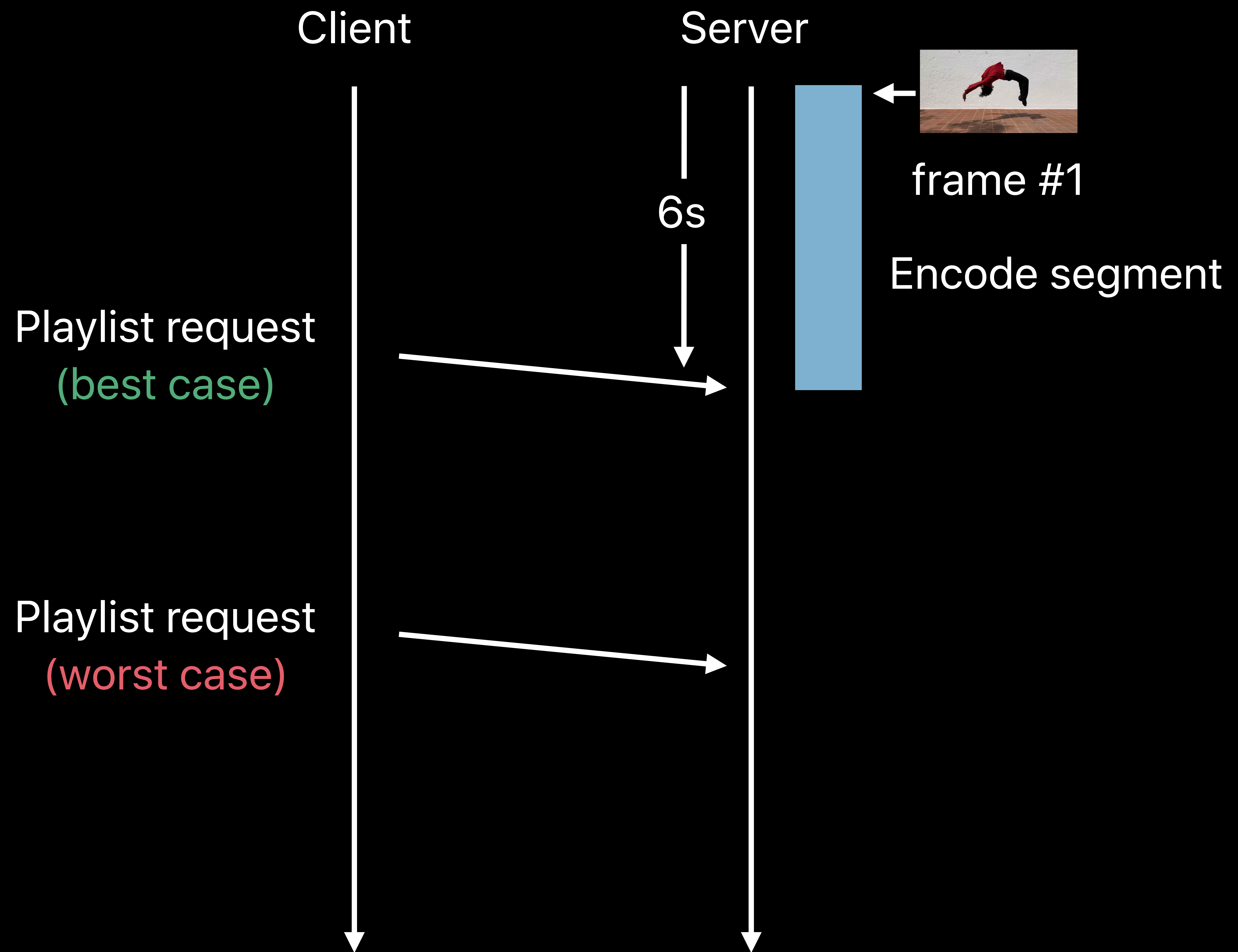
Server



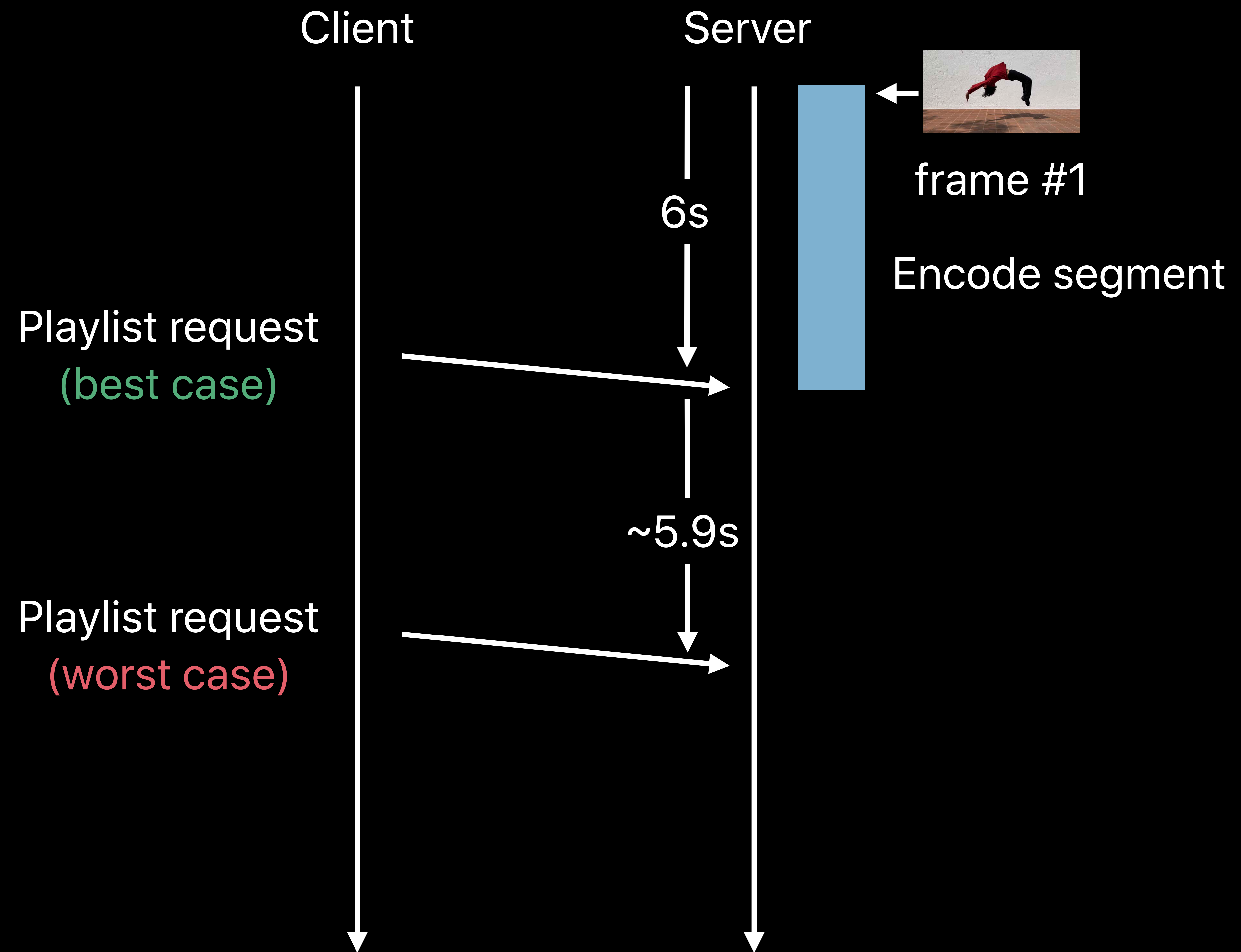
frame #1

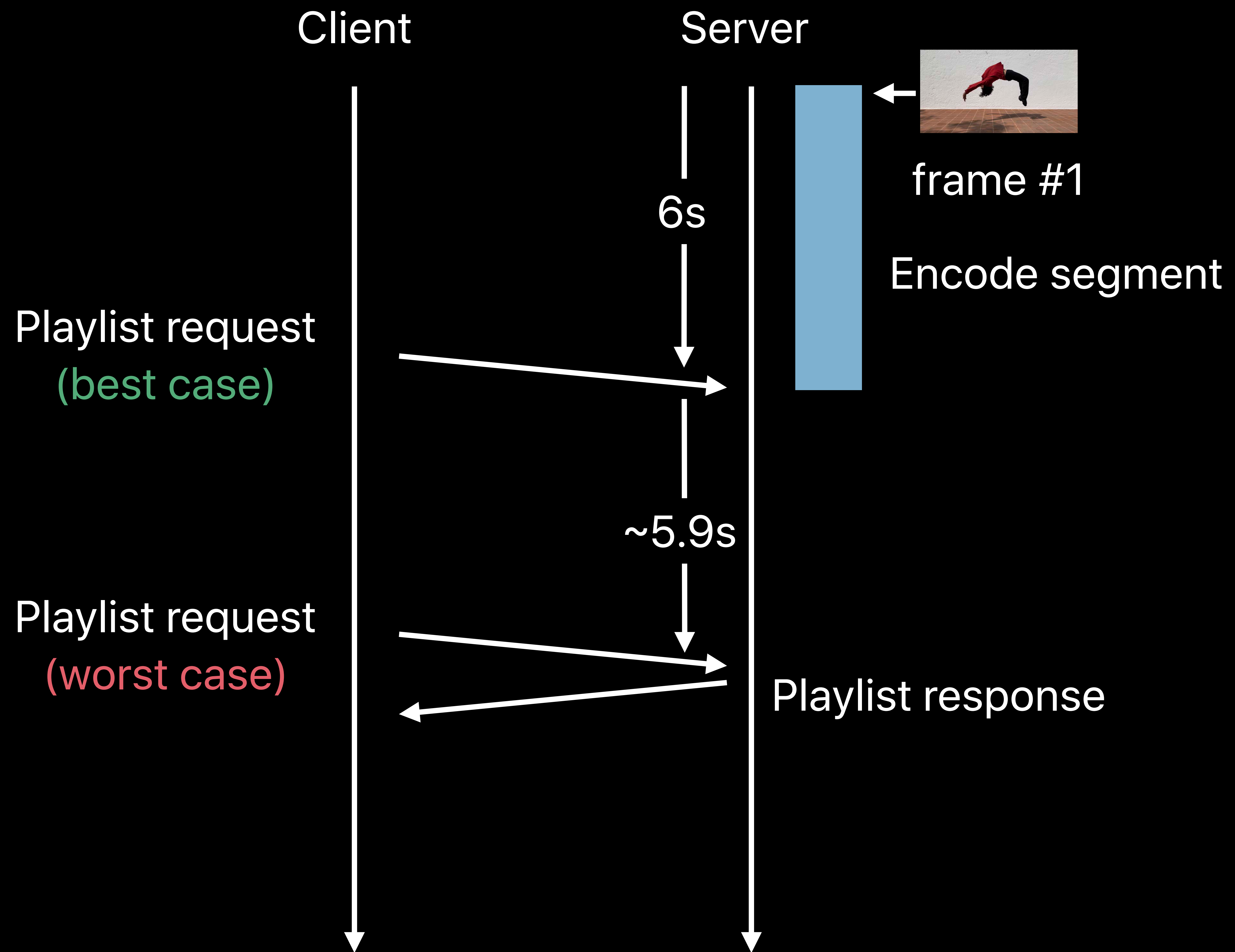
Encode segment

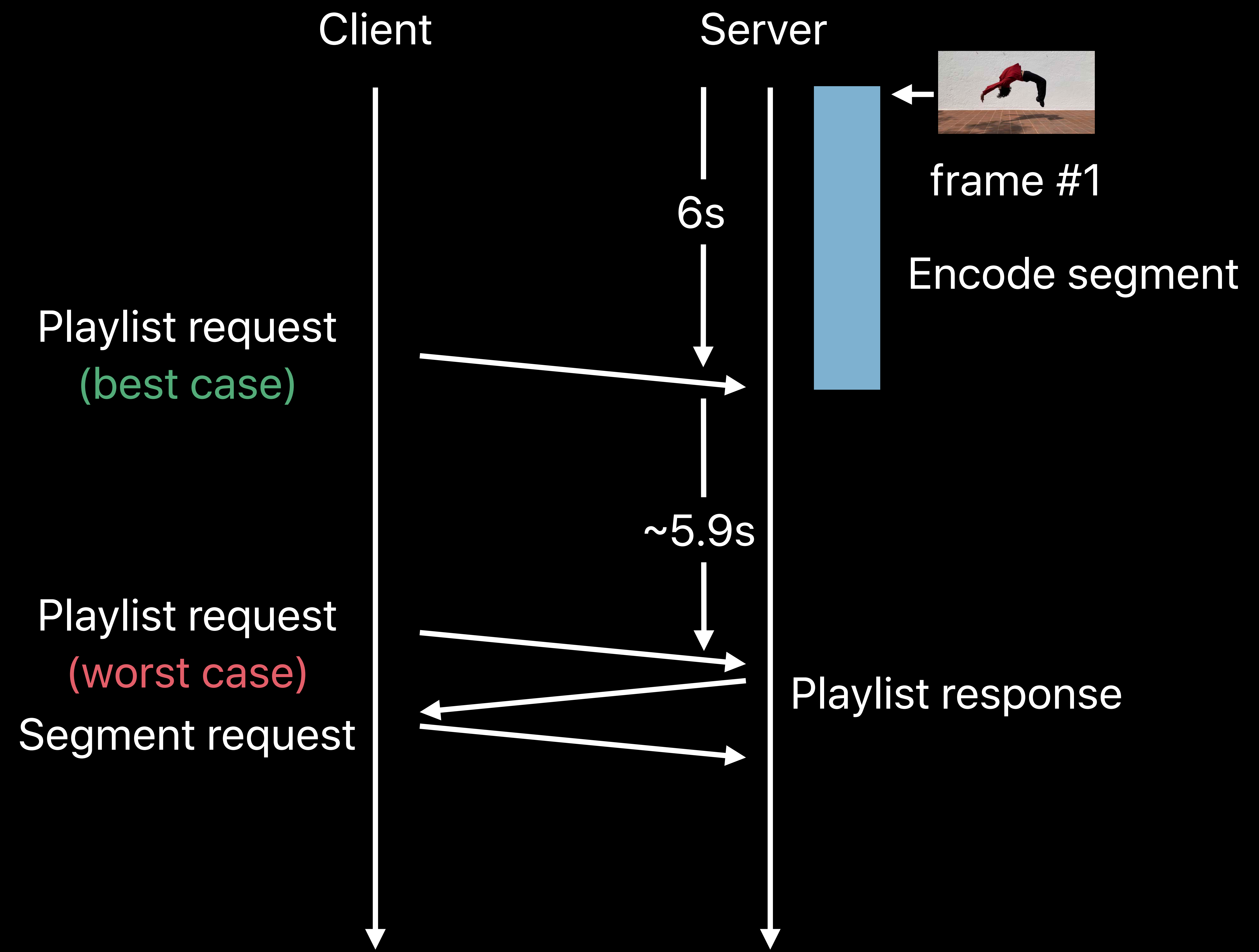


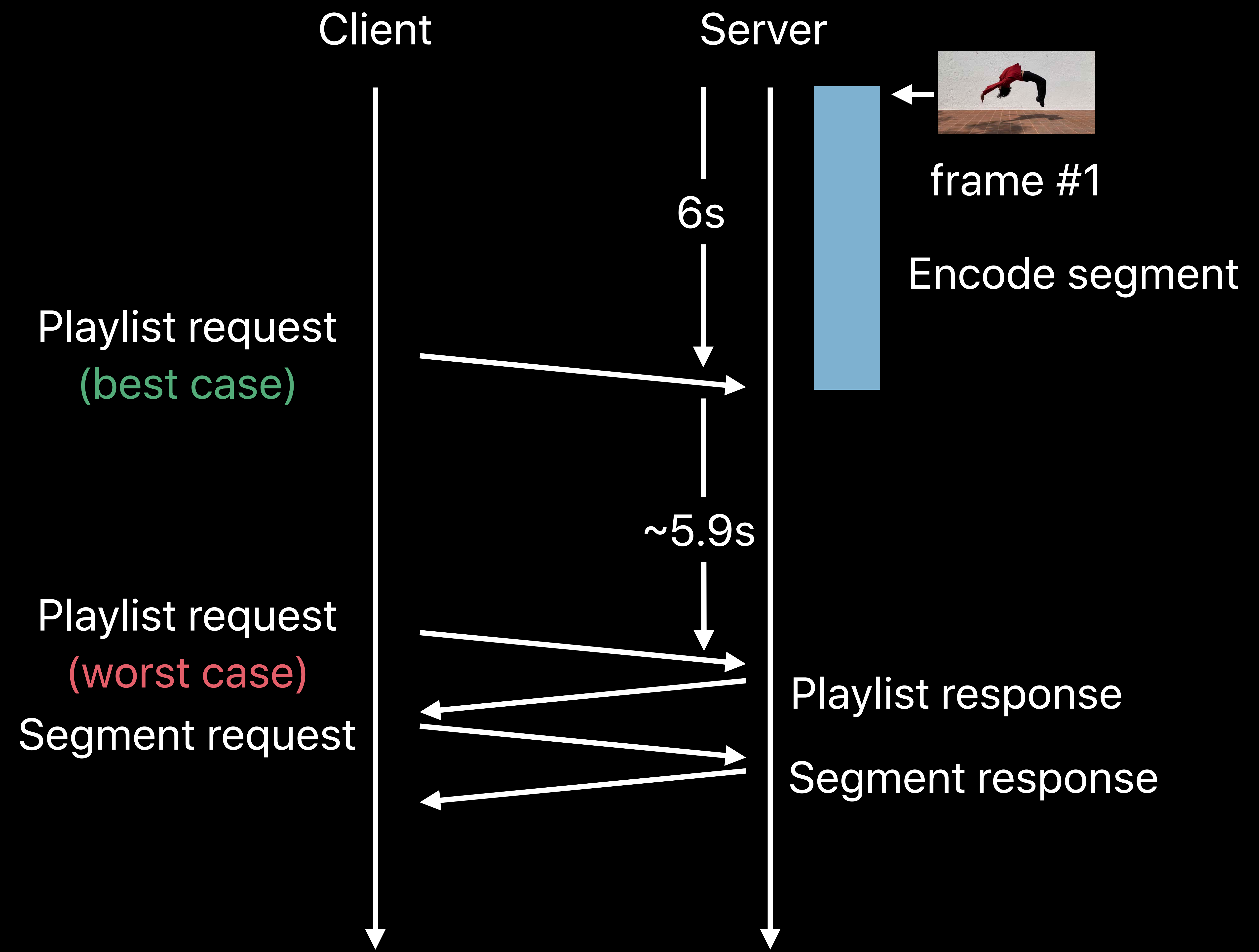


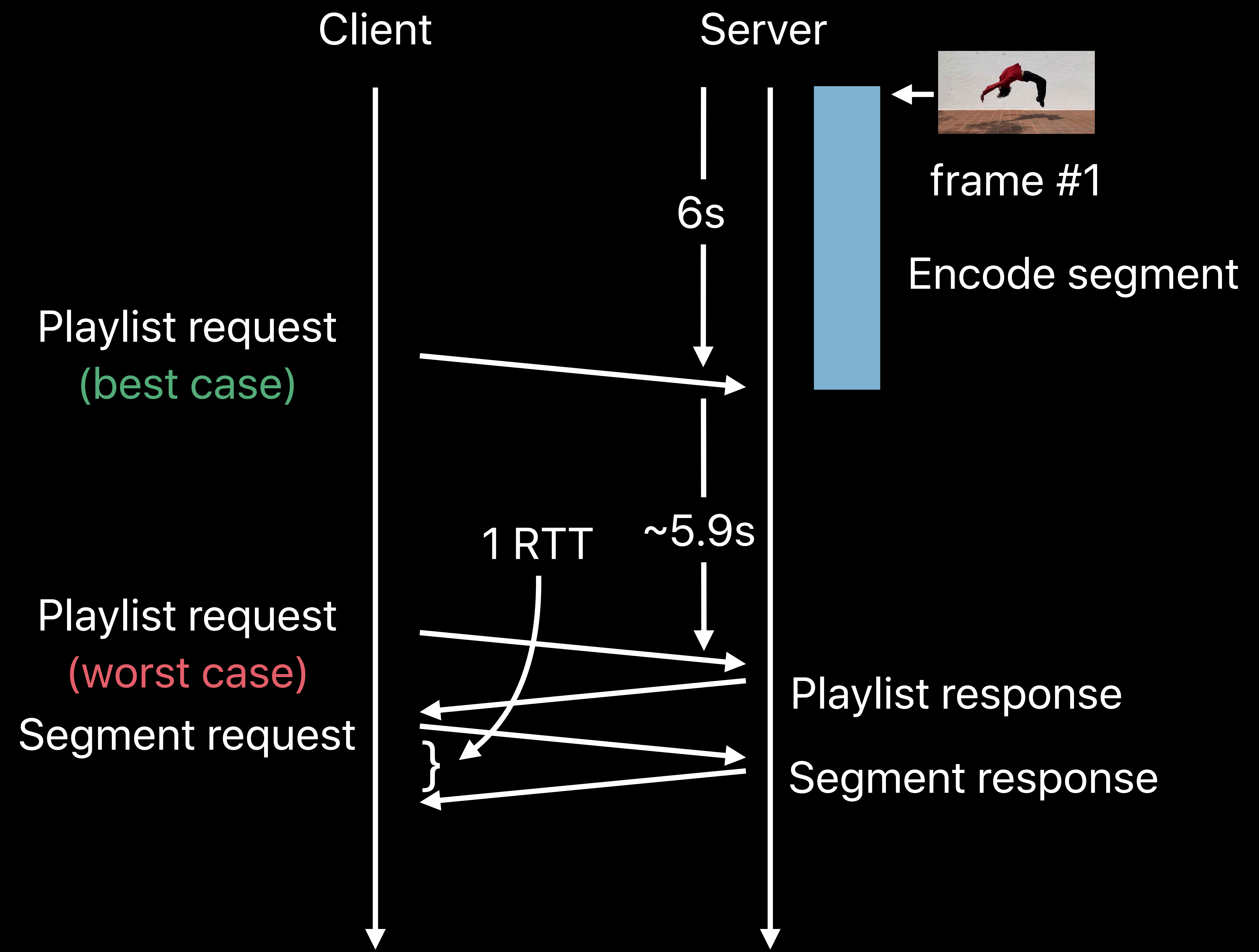




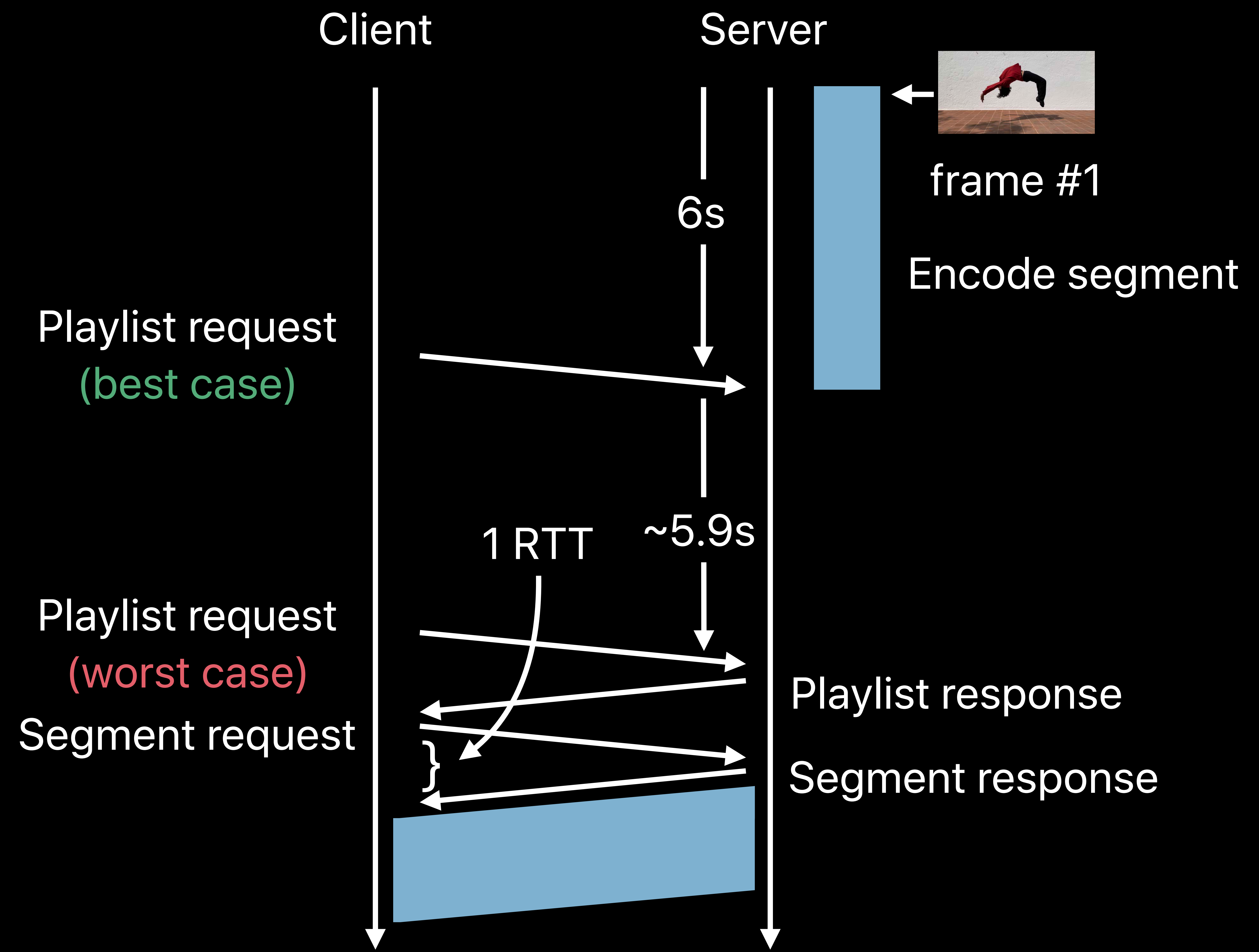


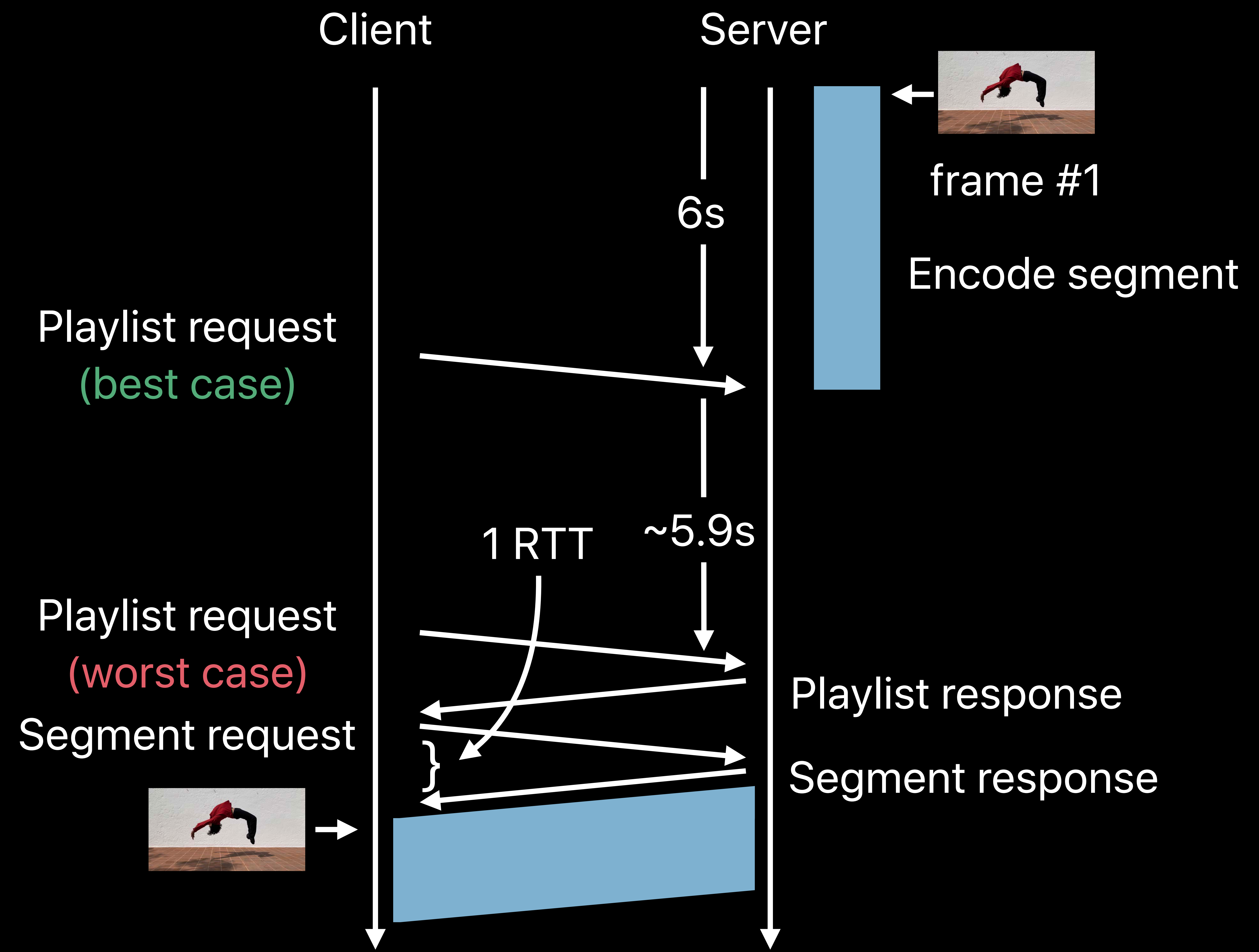




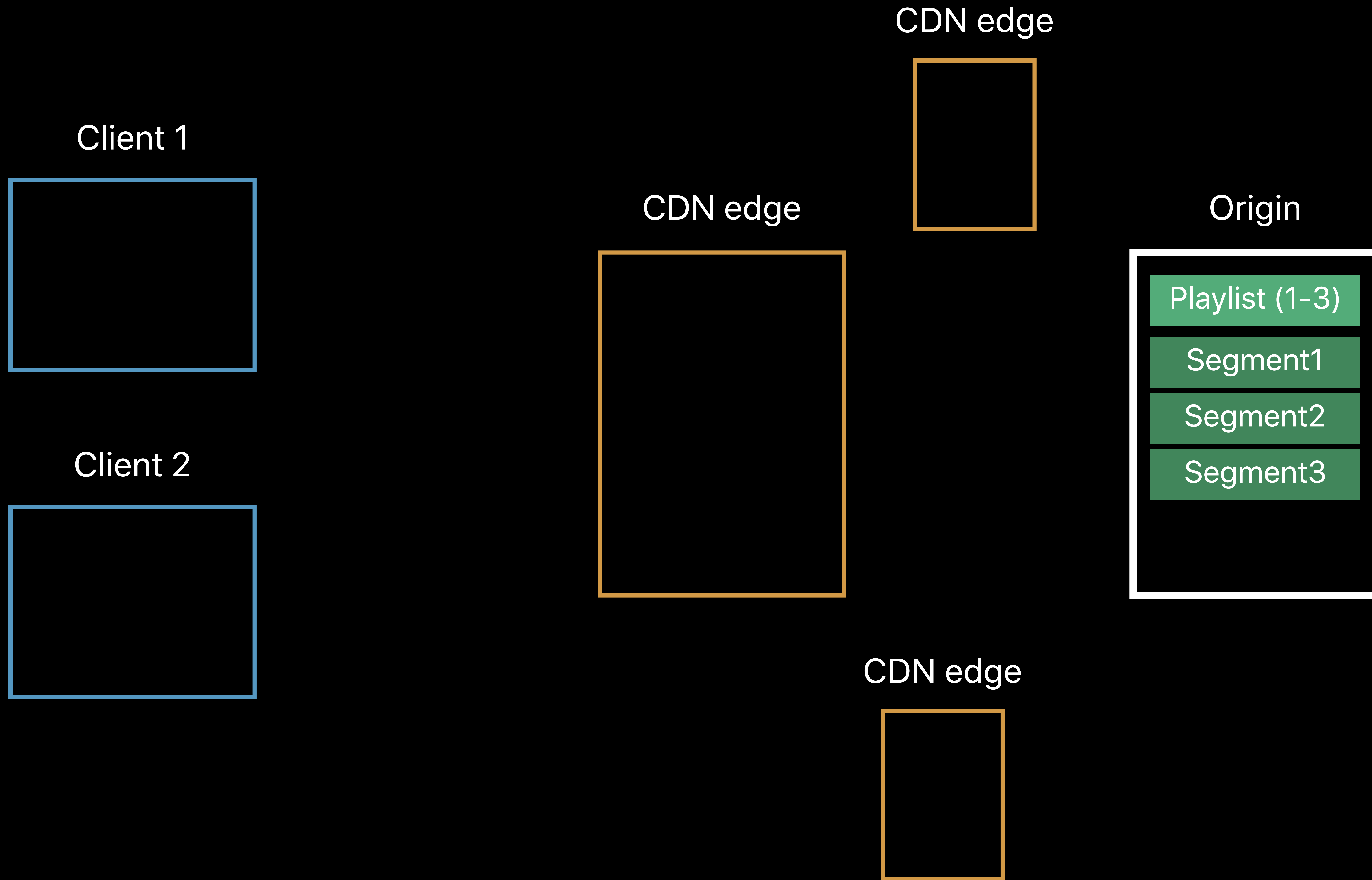






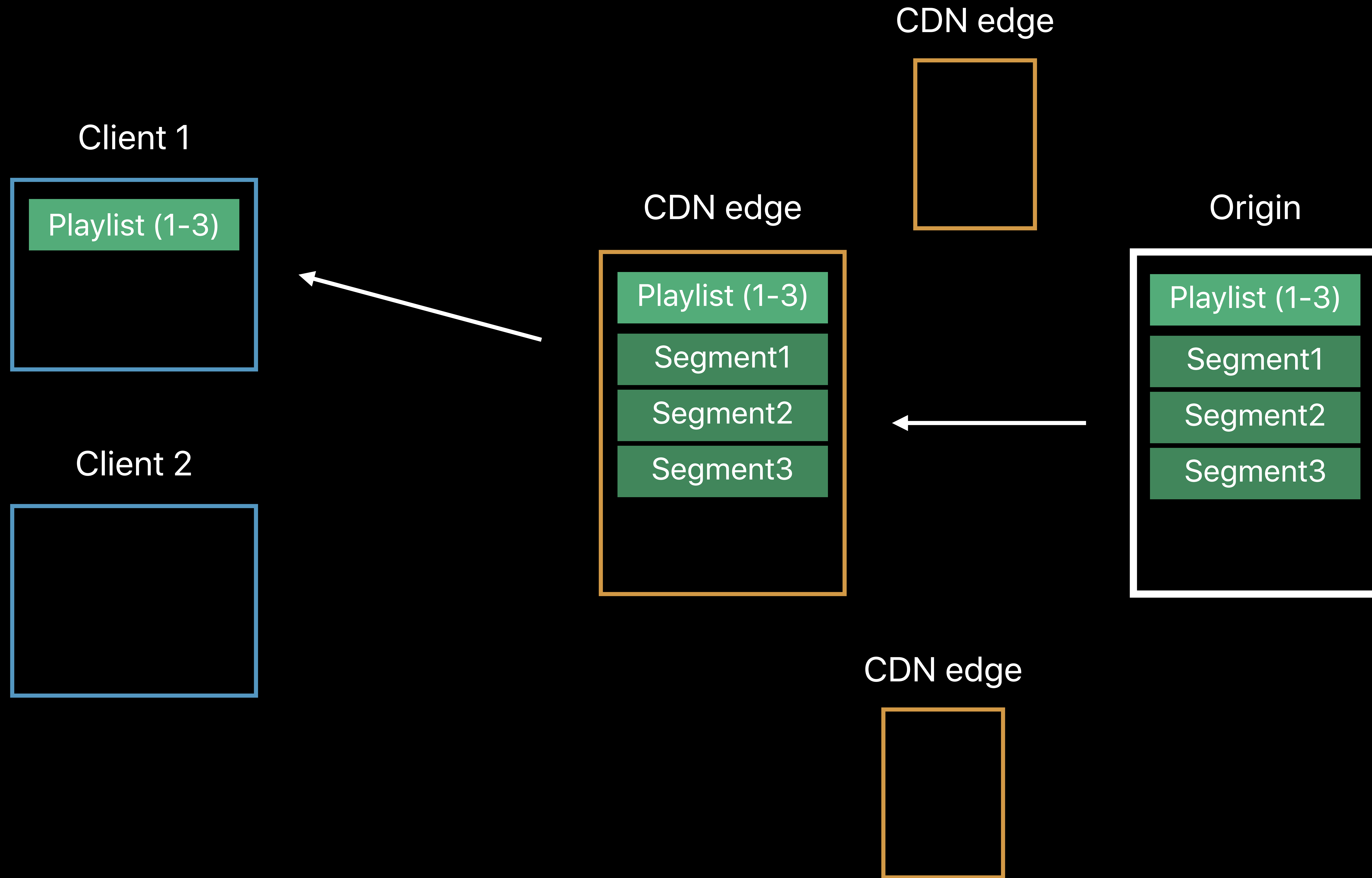


# Too Much Caching Hurts Latency

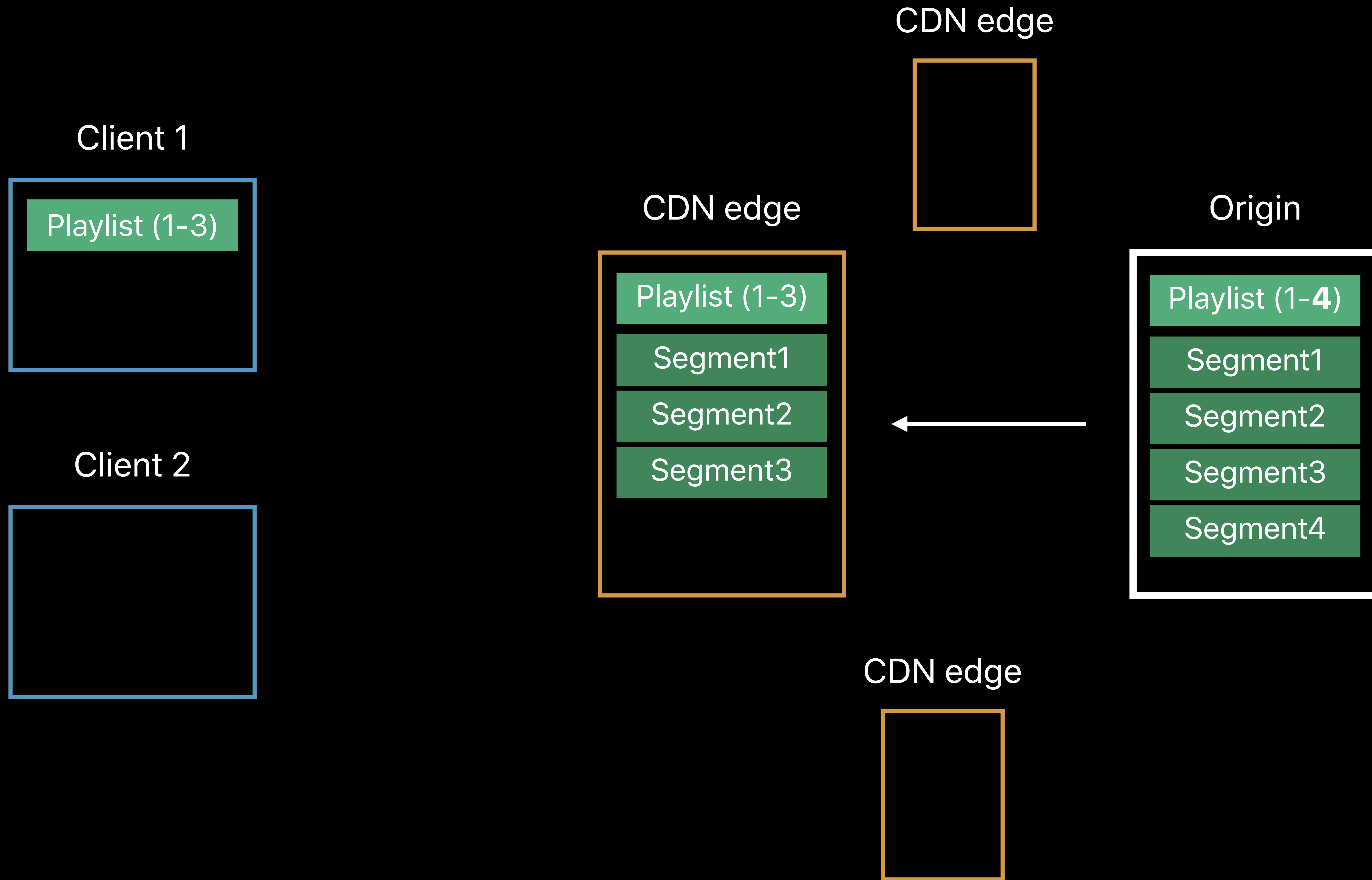




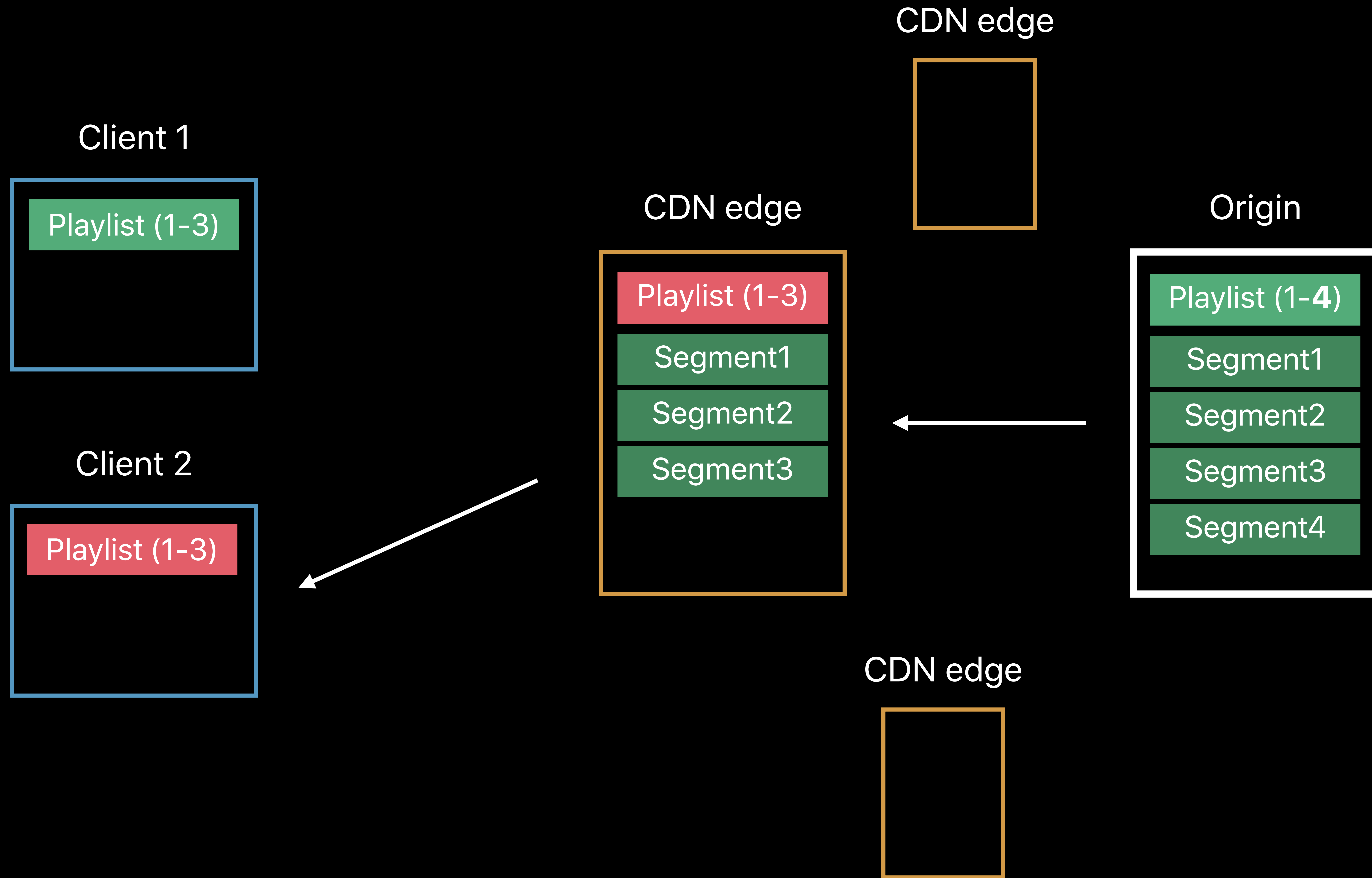
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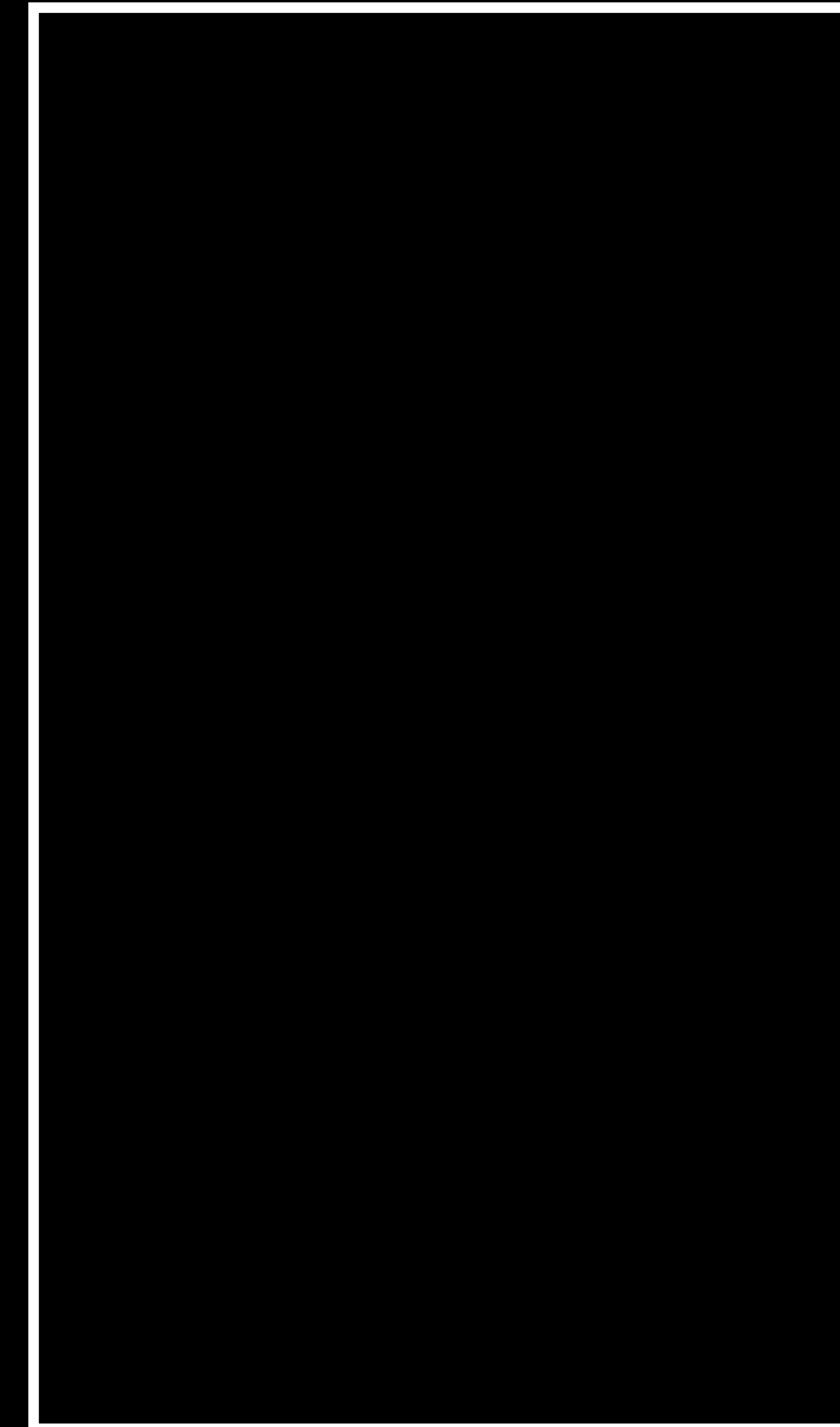
- Must switch in ~600 milliseconds instead of 10 seconds

# 5 Changes

# Reduce Publishing Latency

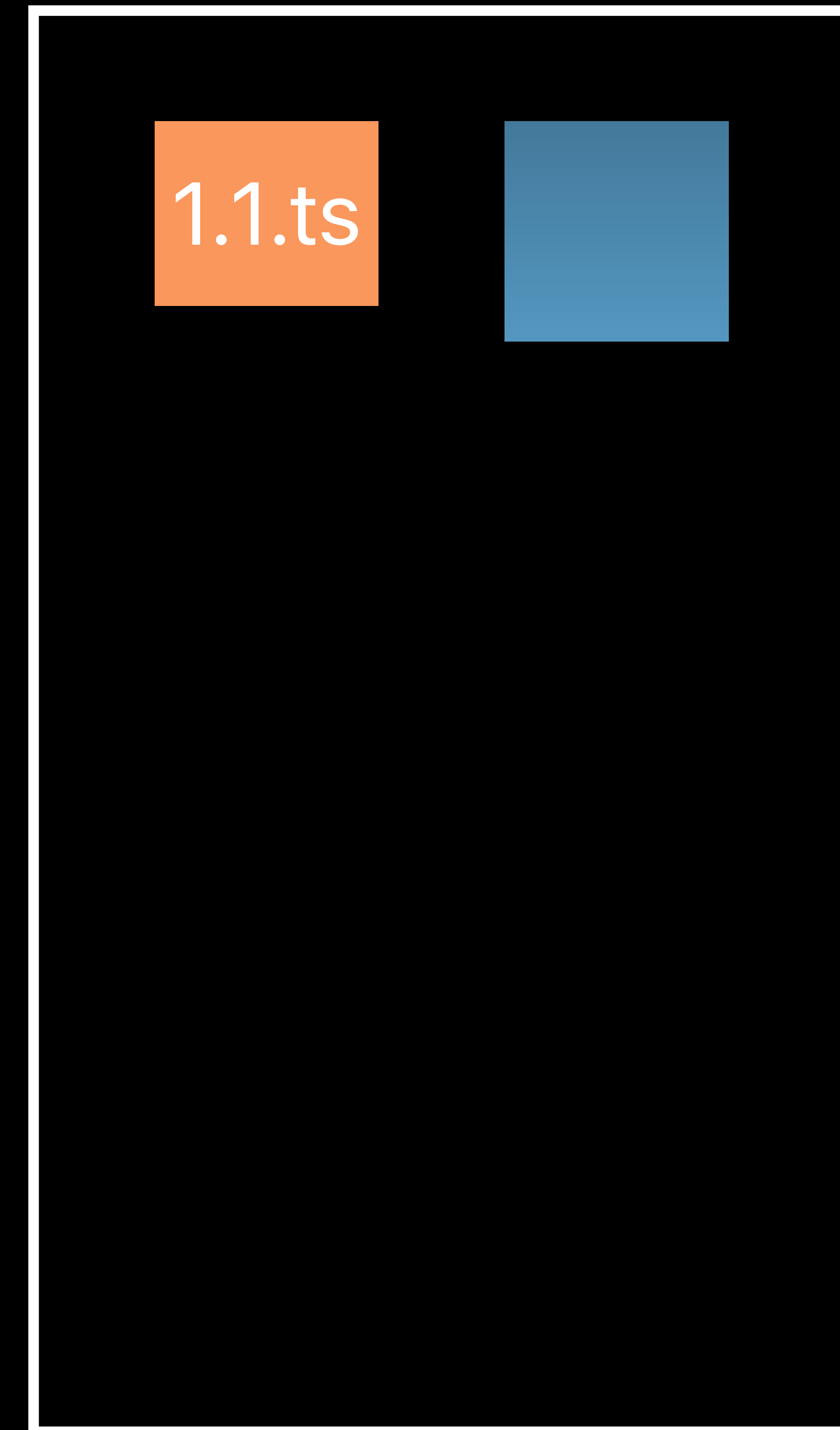
Reduce Publishing Latency

Origin



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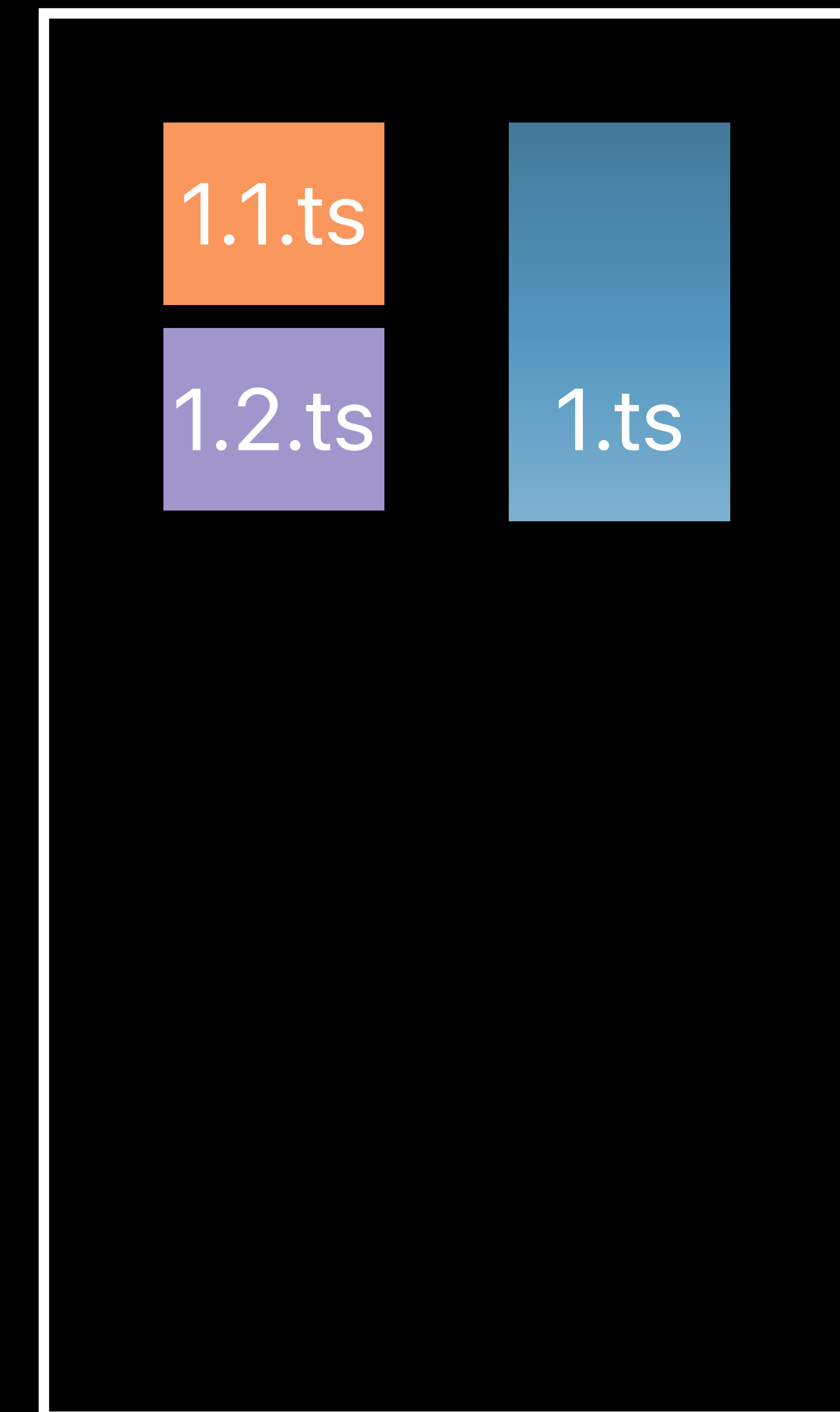
Origin



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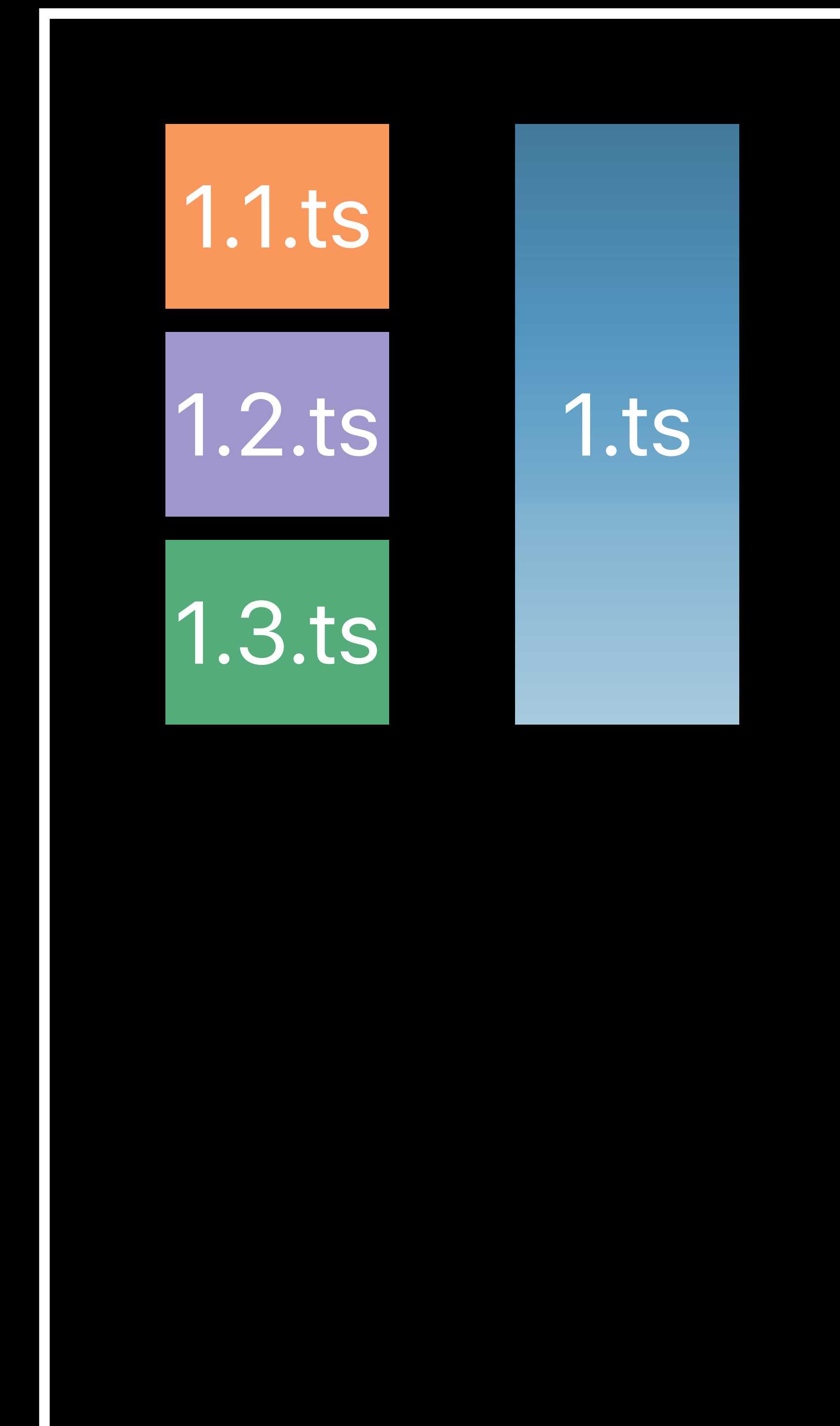
Origin



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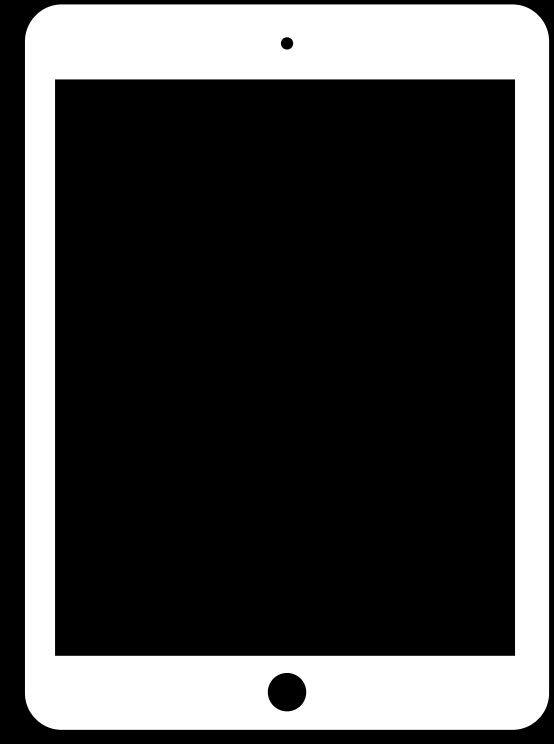
Origin





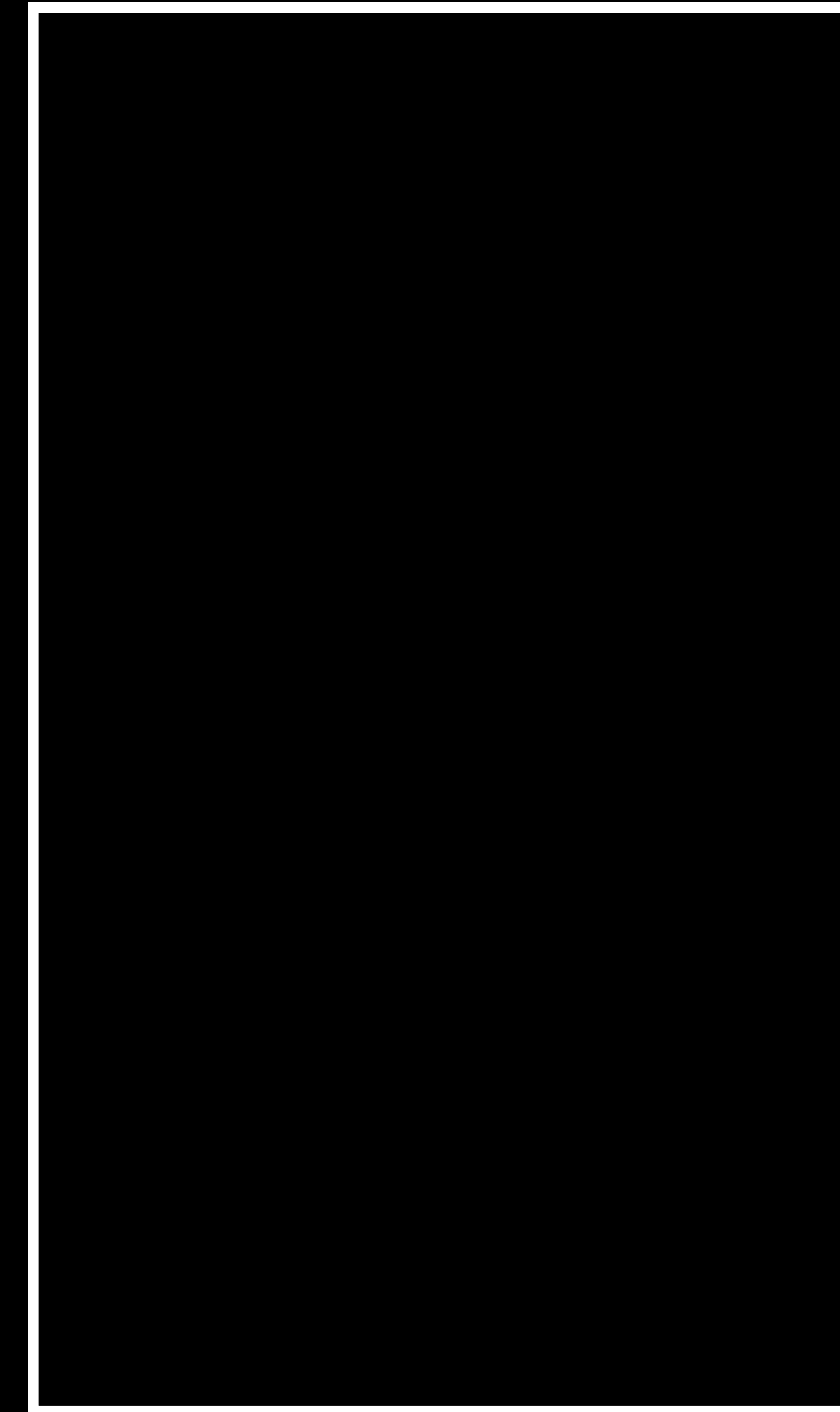
# Optimize Segment Discovery

Optimize Discovery



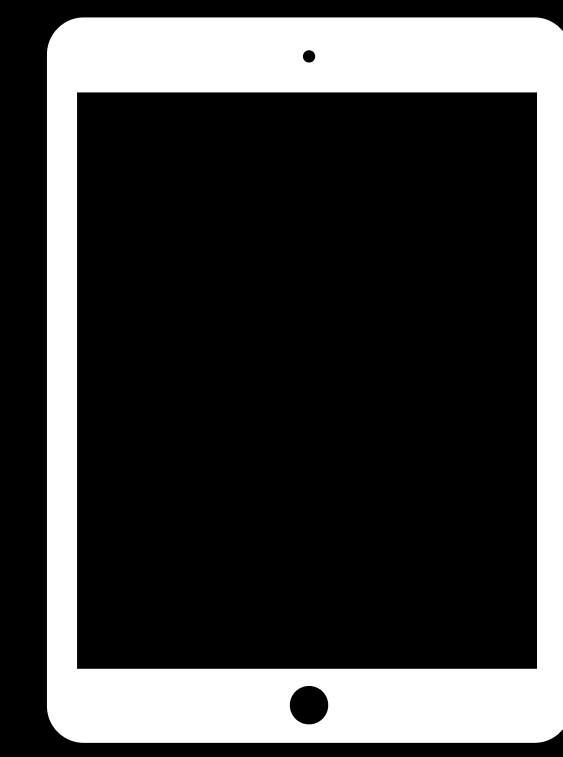
Client

Origin

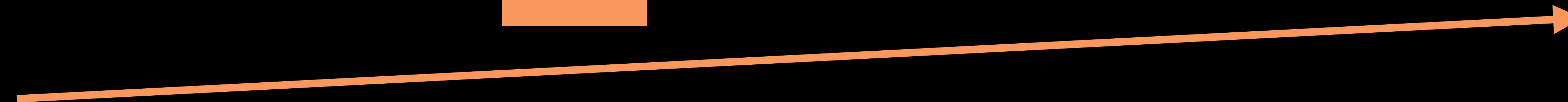


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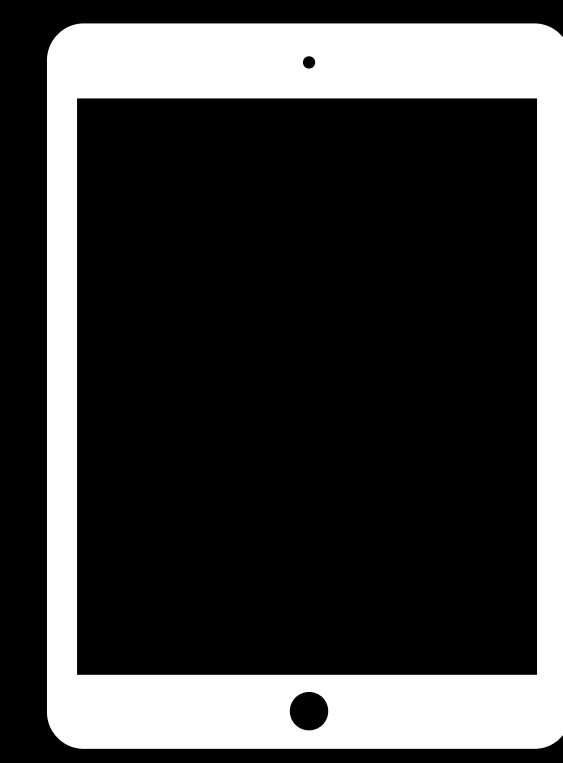


Origin

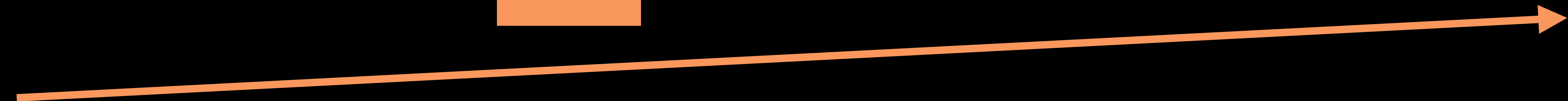


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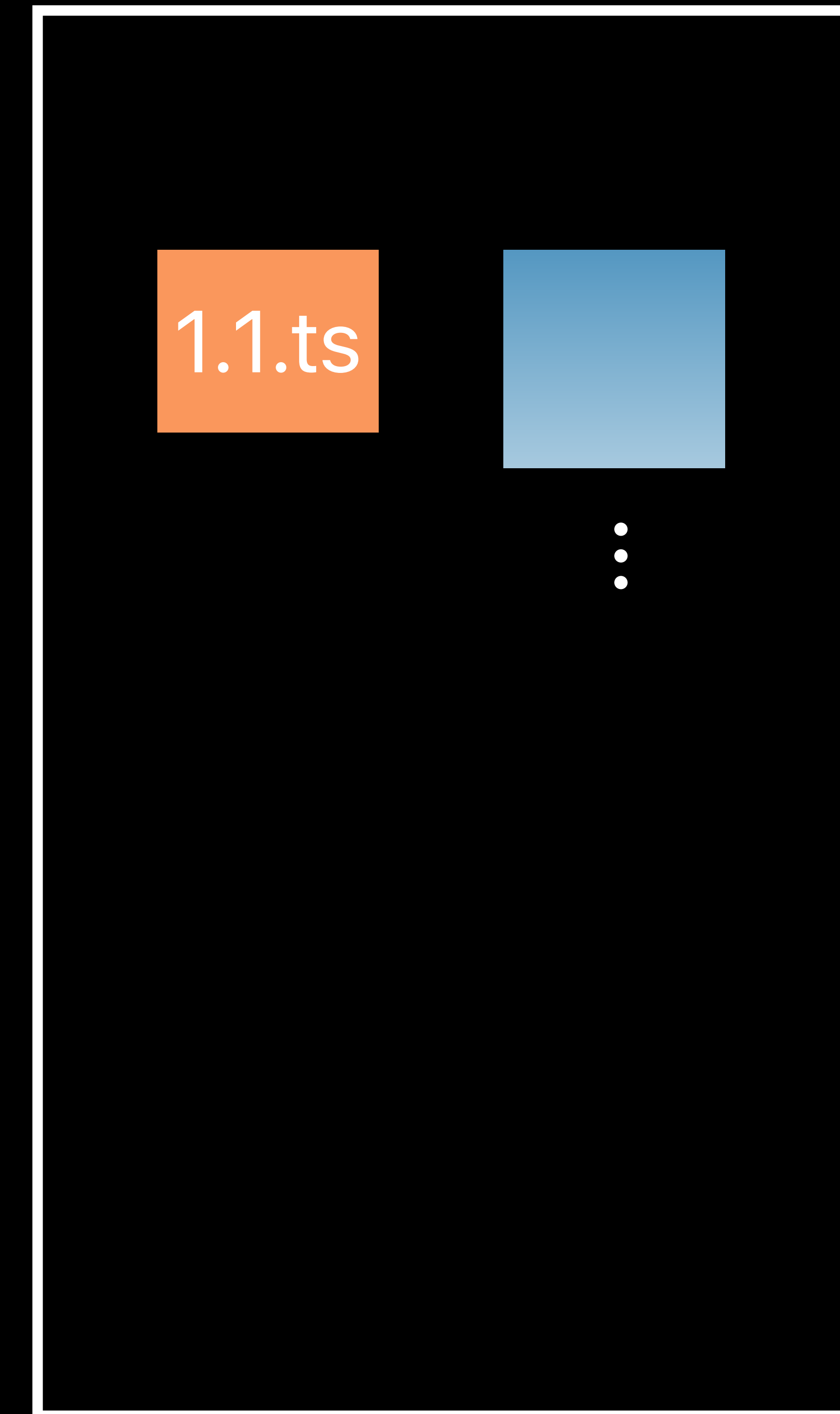
Optimize Discovery



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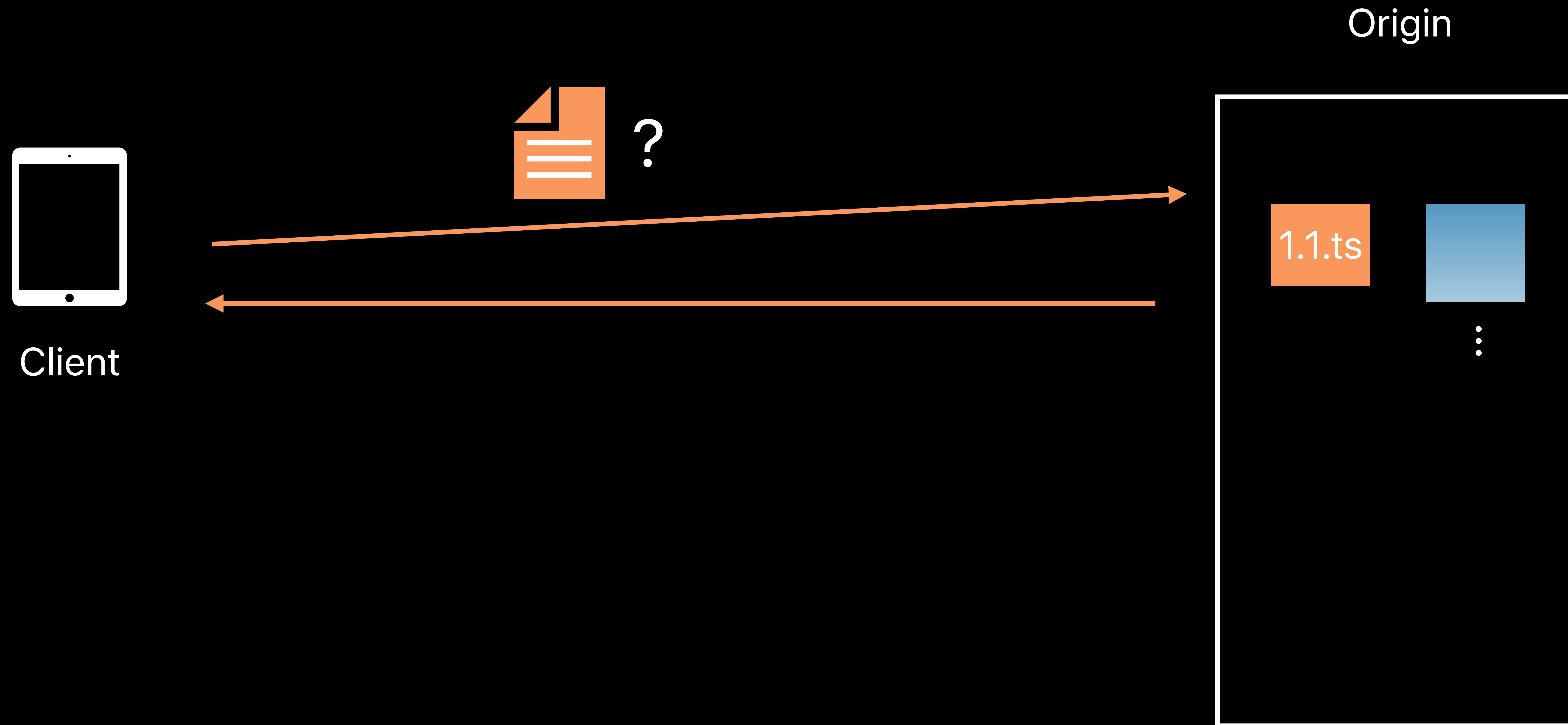


Origin



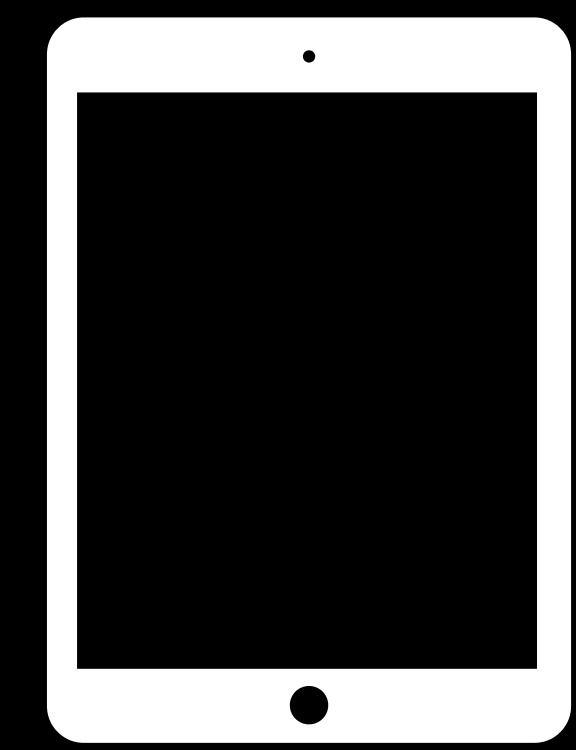
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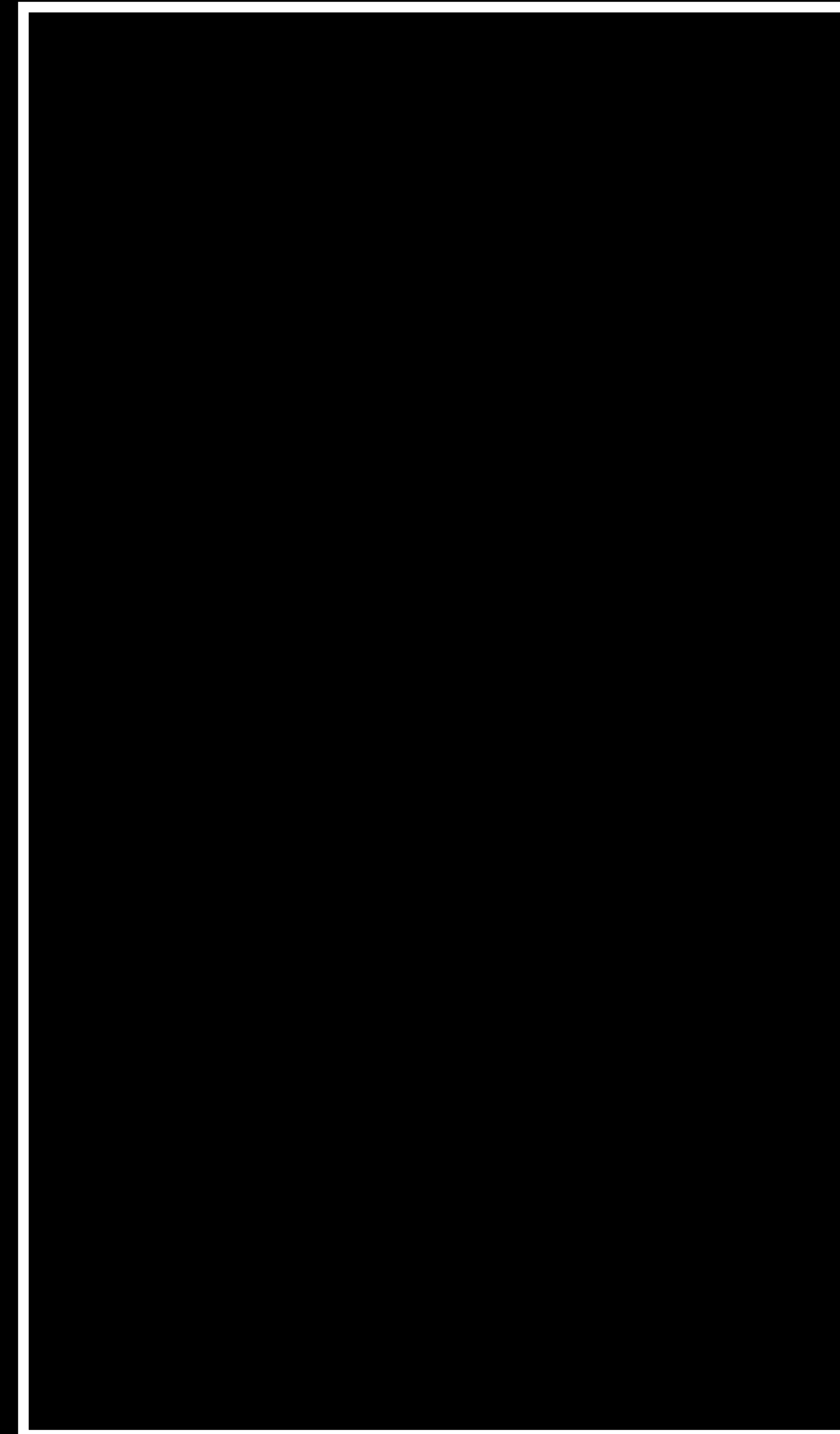
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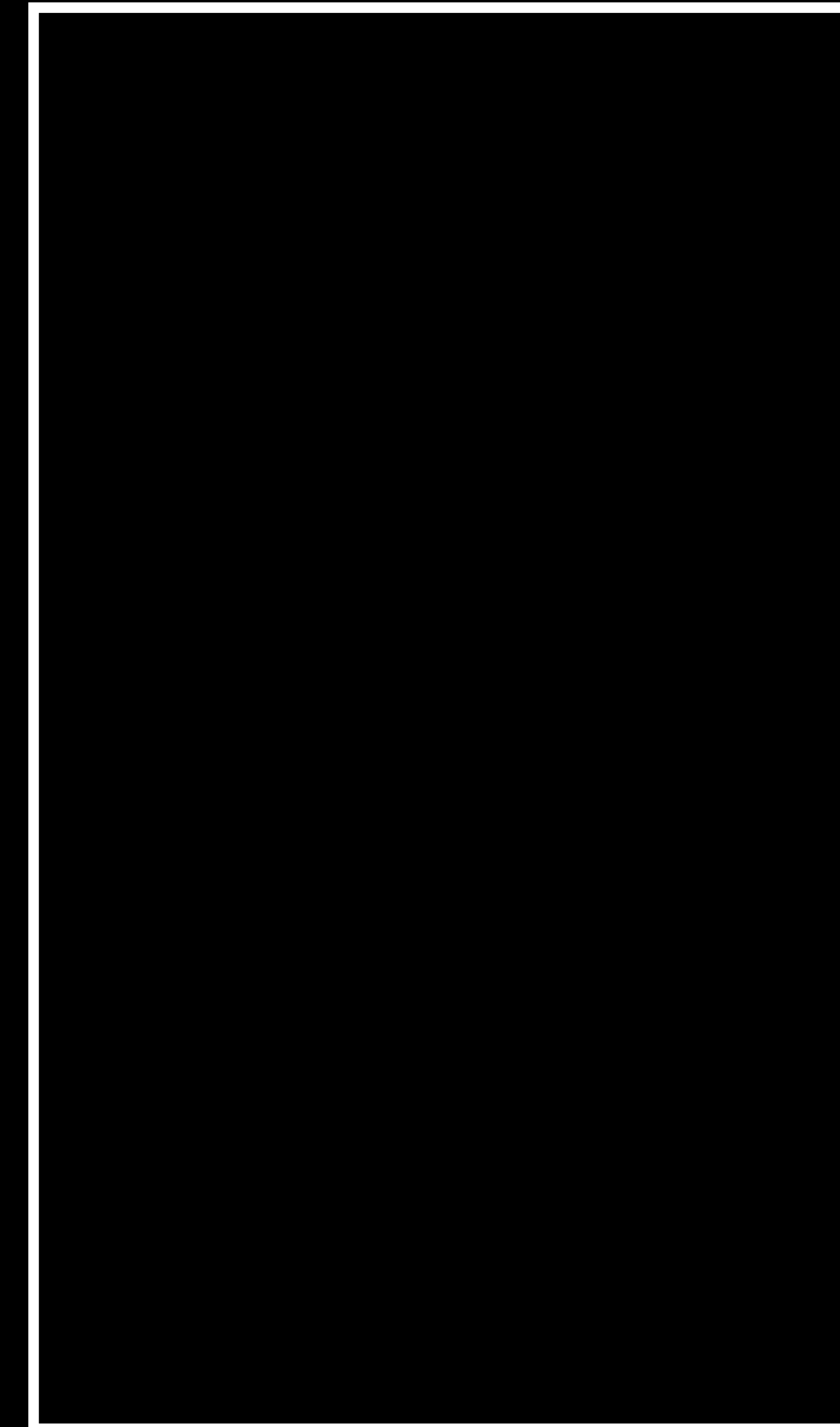


Client 1

CDN

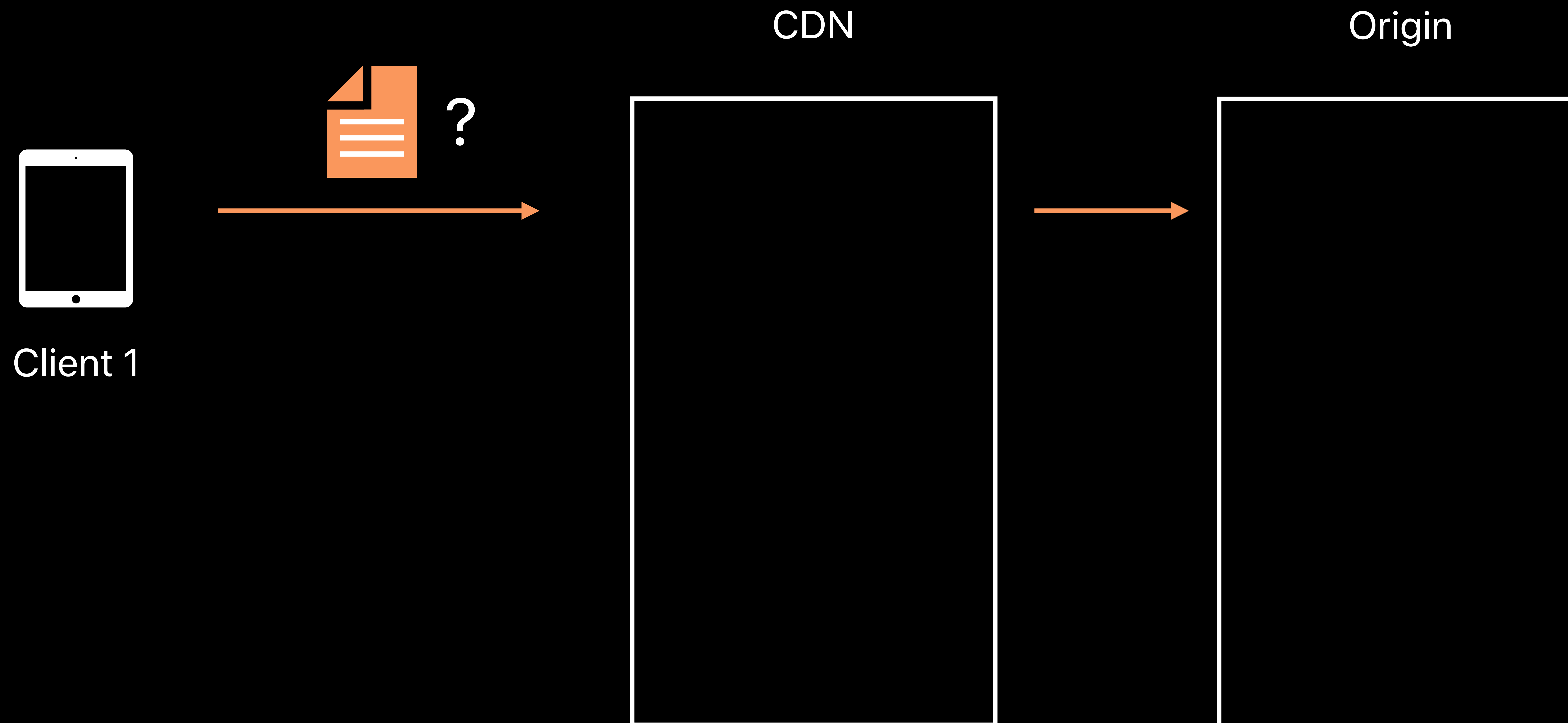


Origin



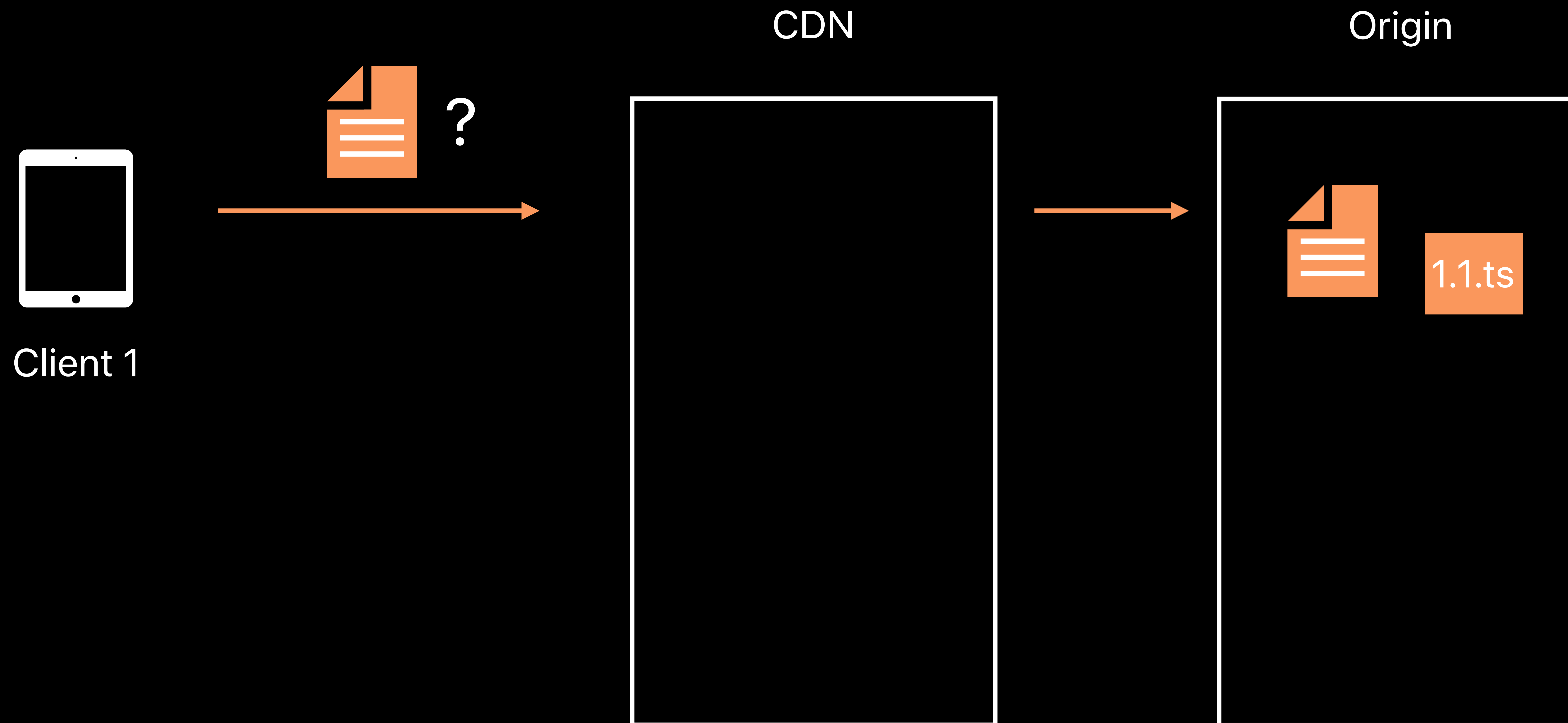
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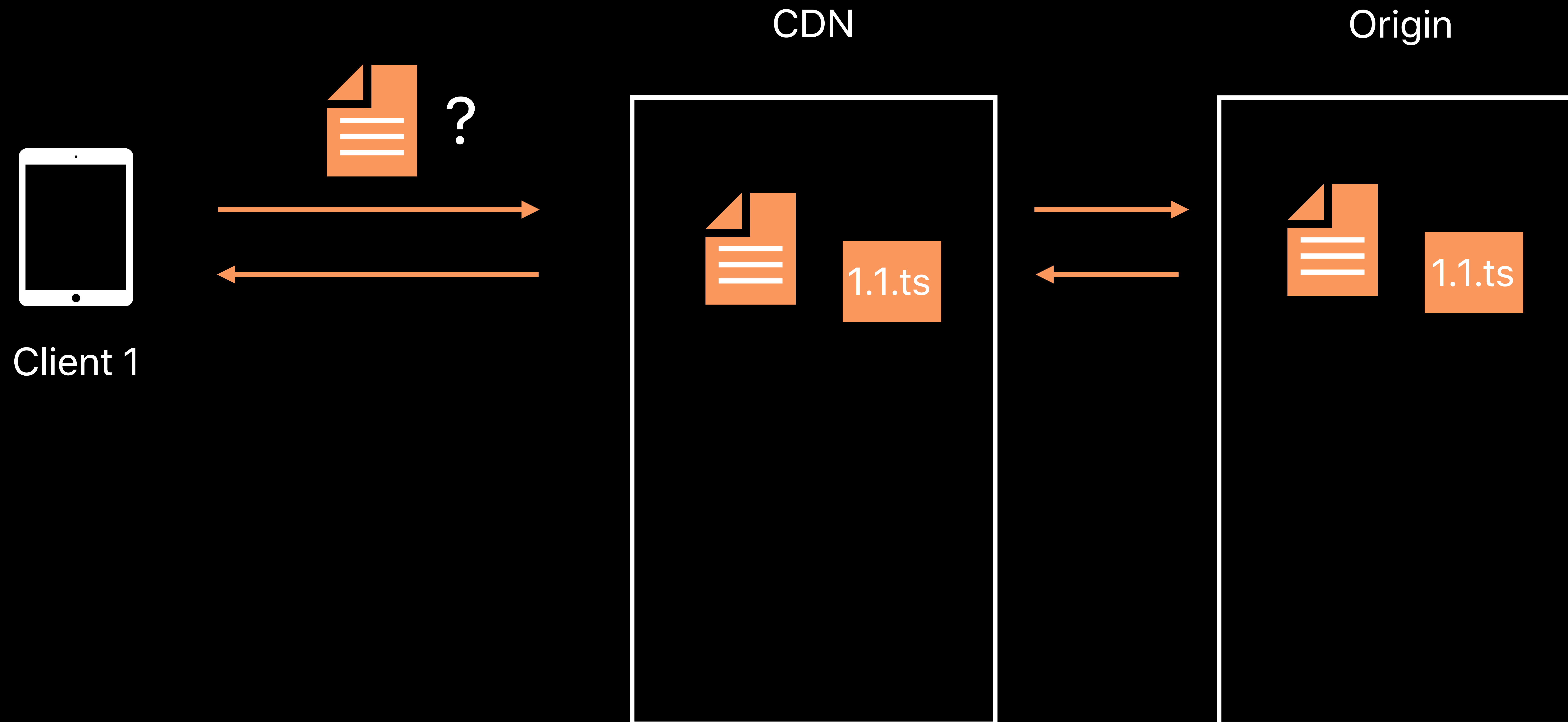
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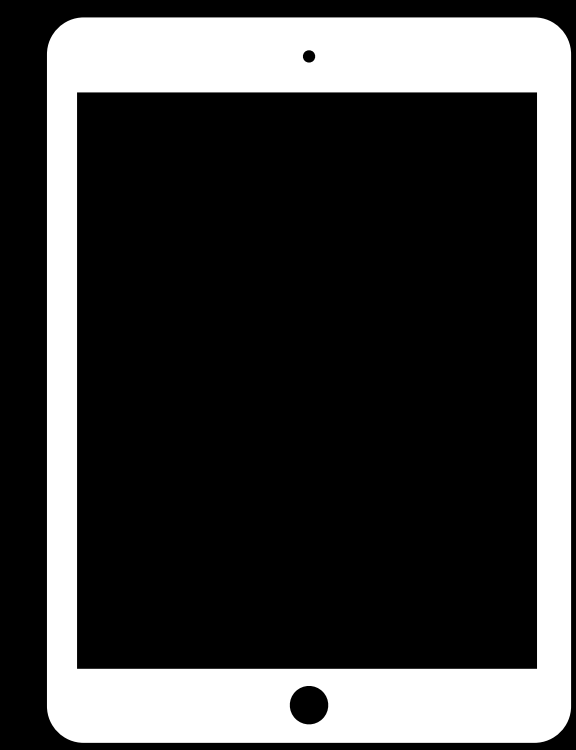
Optimize Discovery



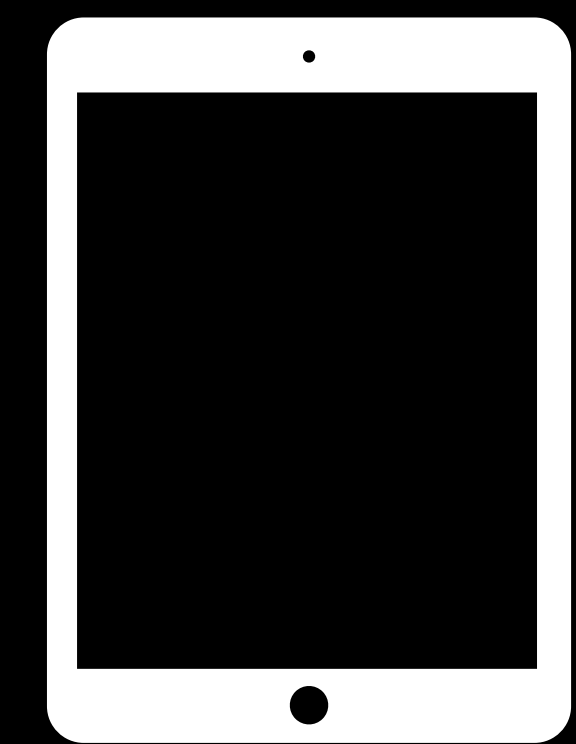


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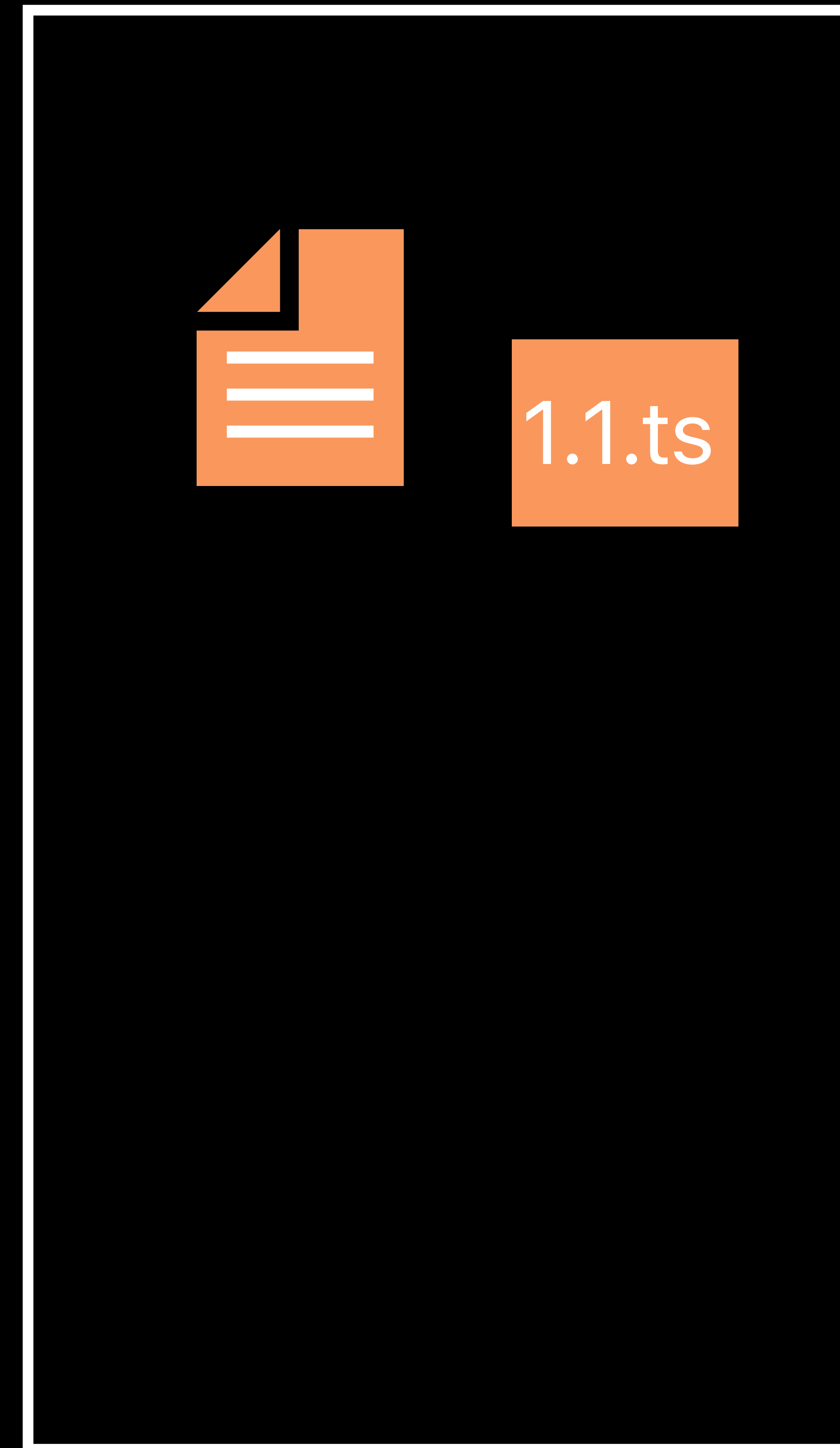


Client 1



Client 2

CDN

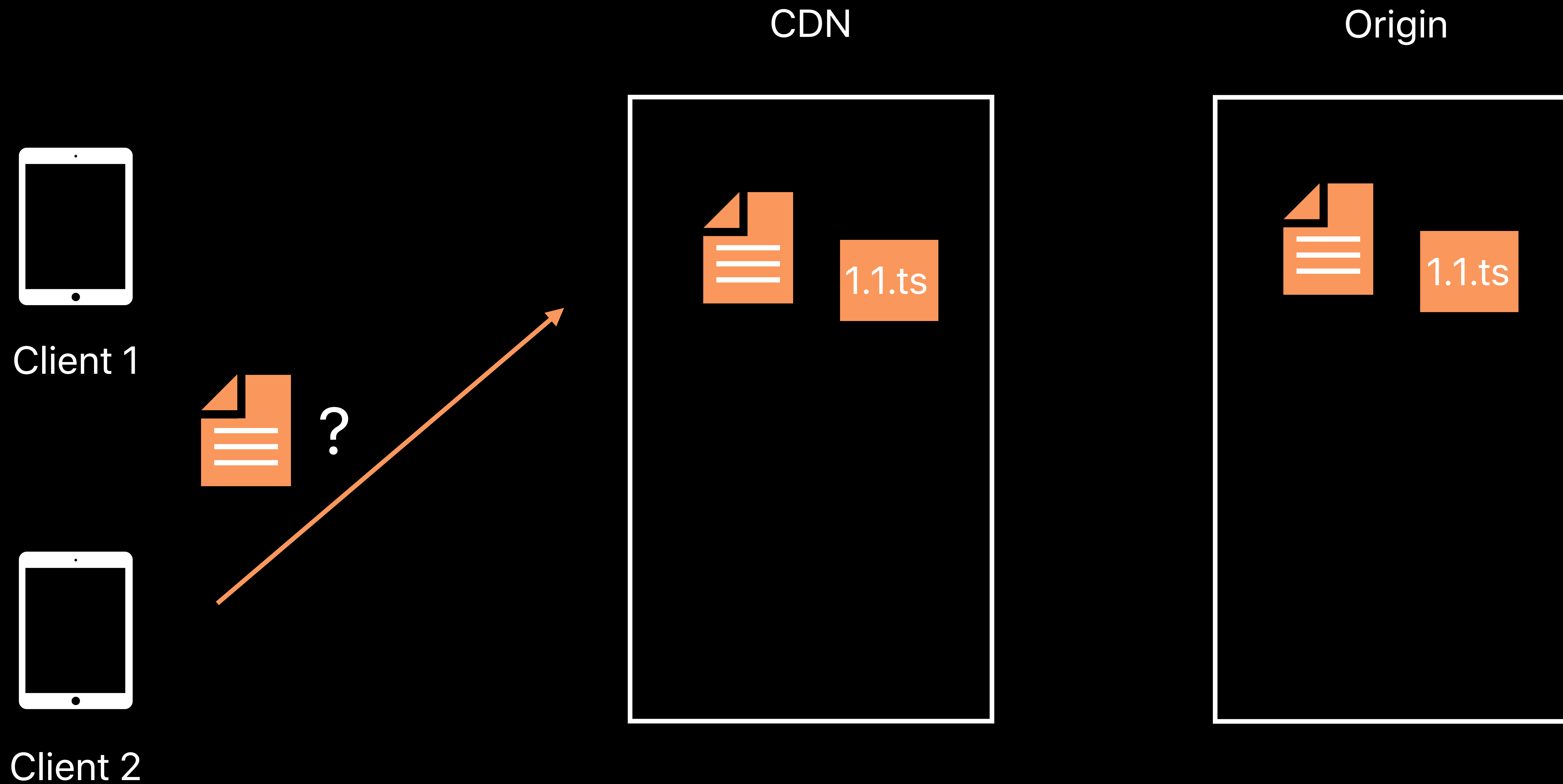


Origin



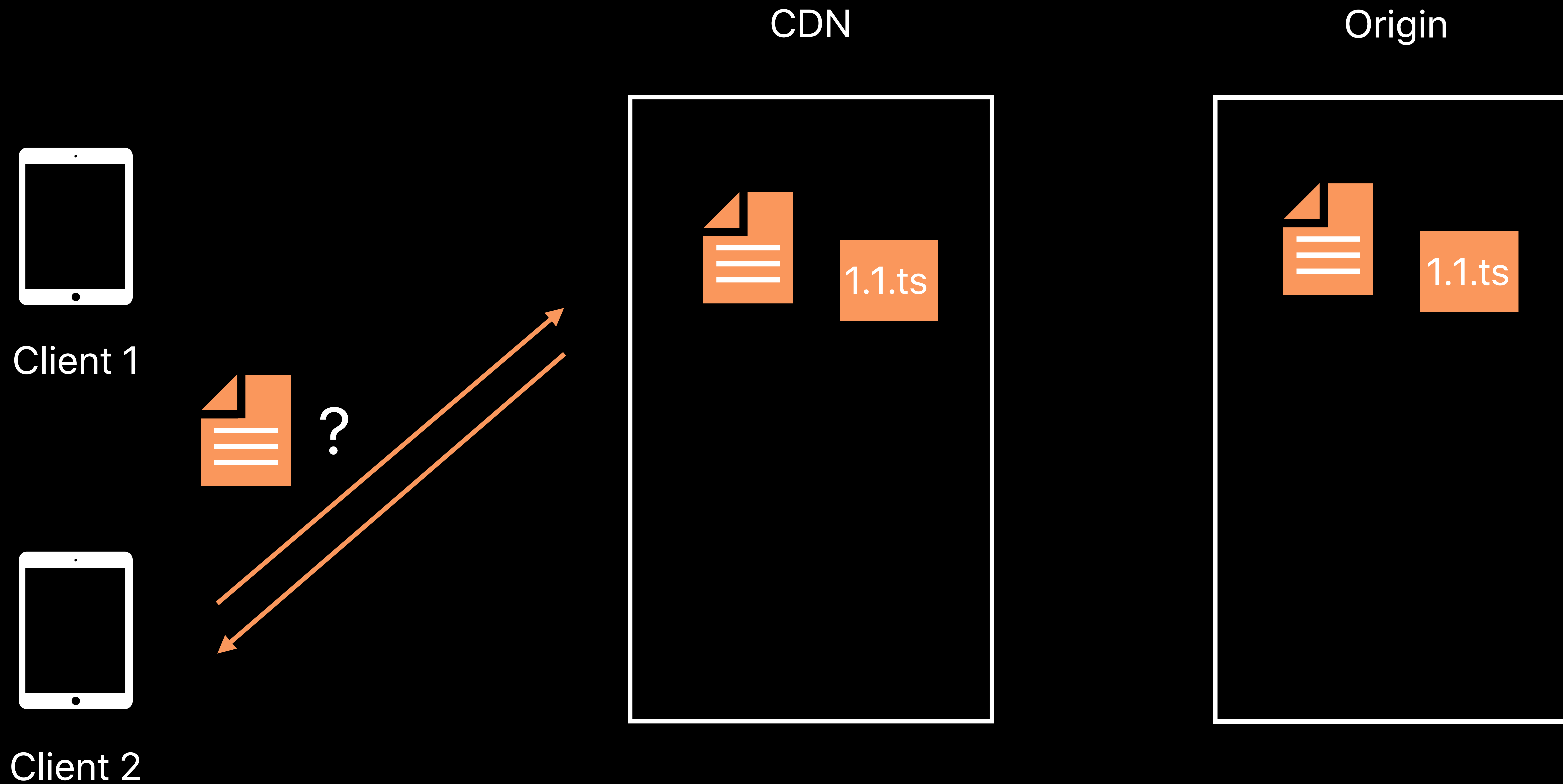
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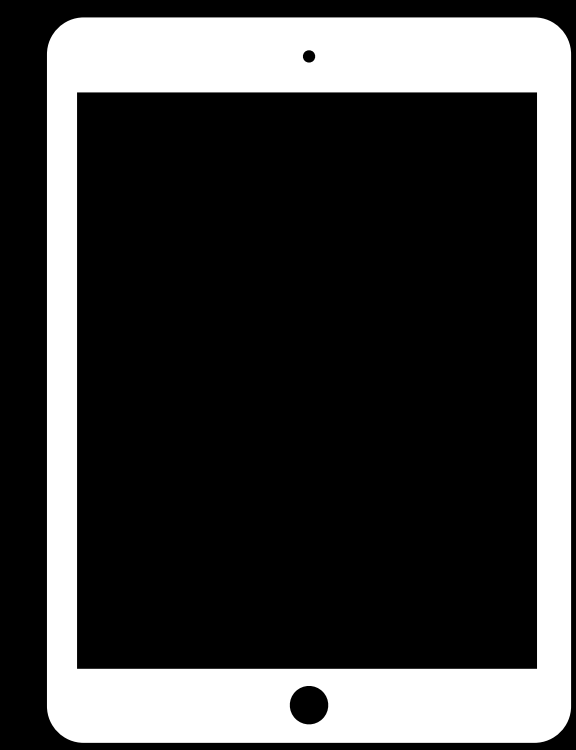
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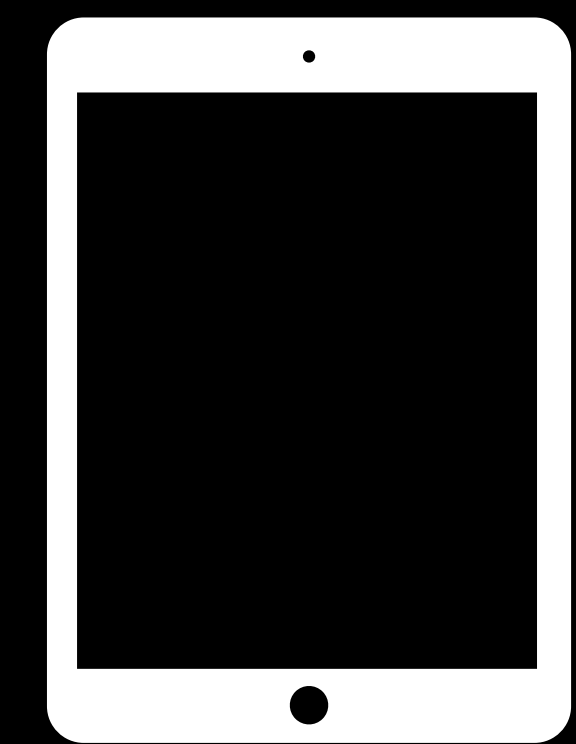


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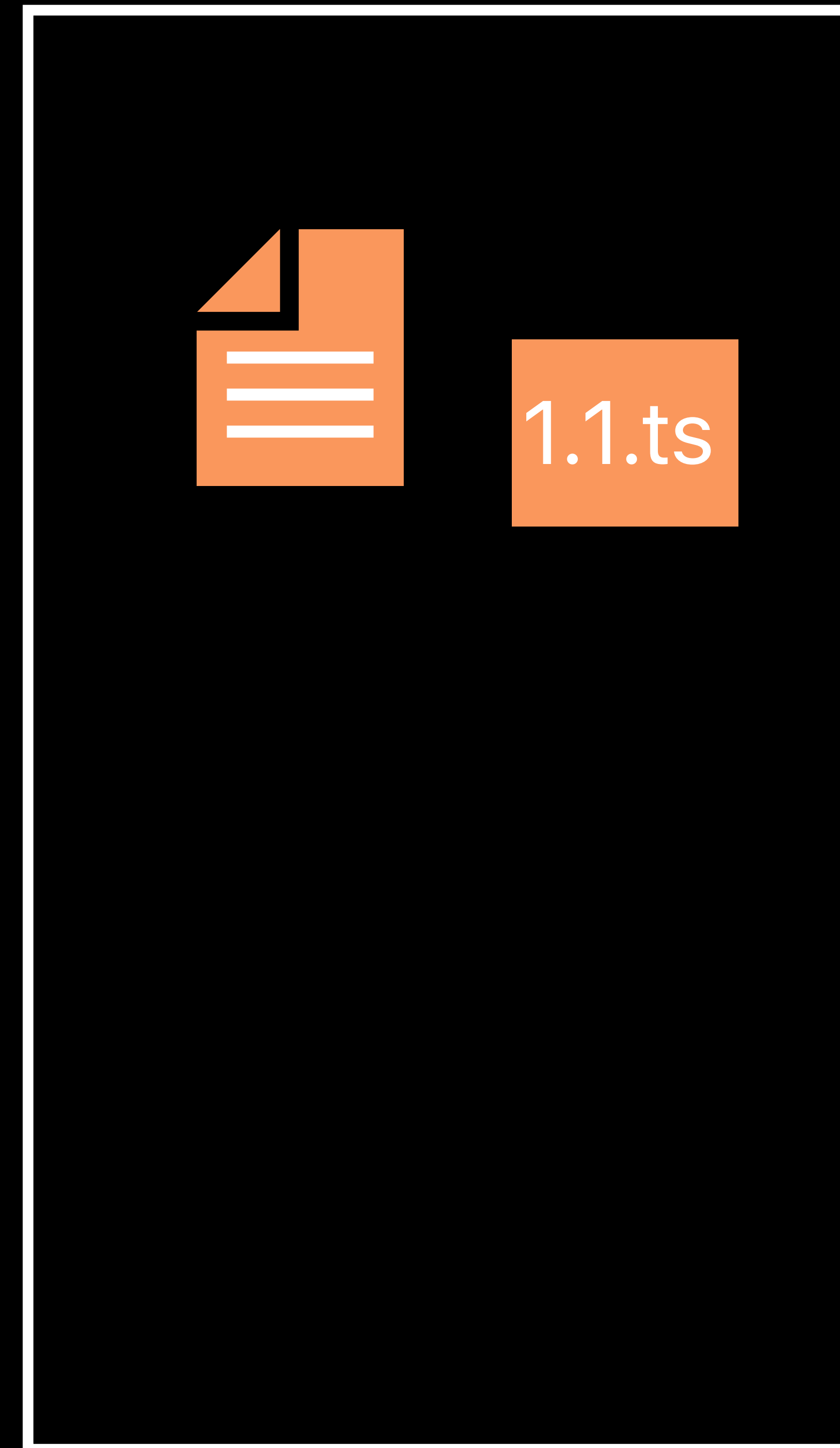


Client 1



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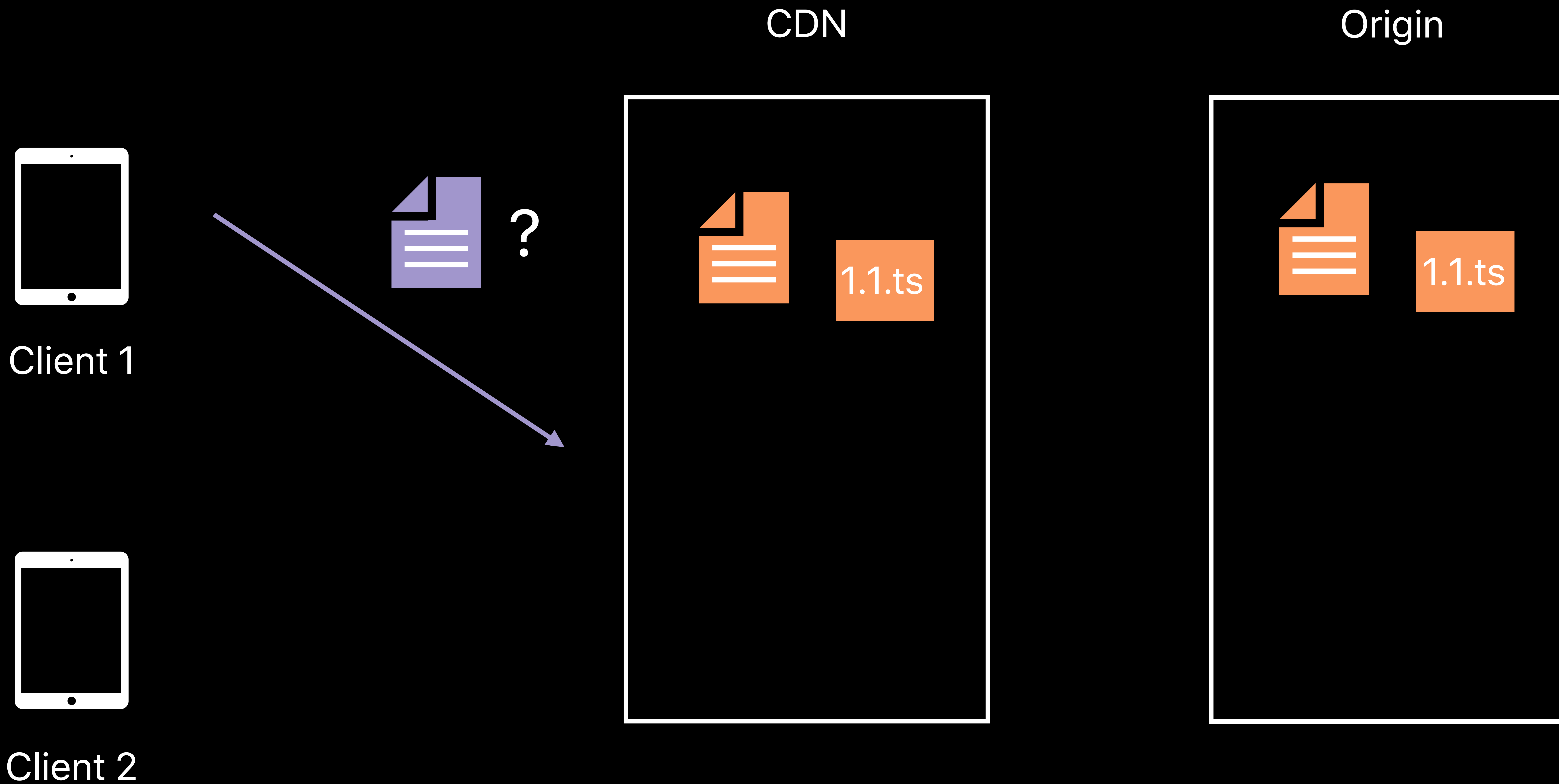


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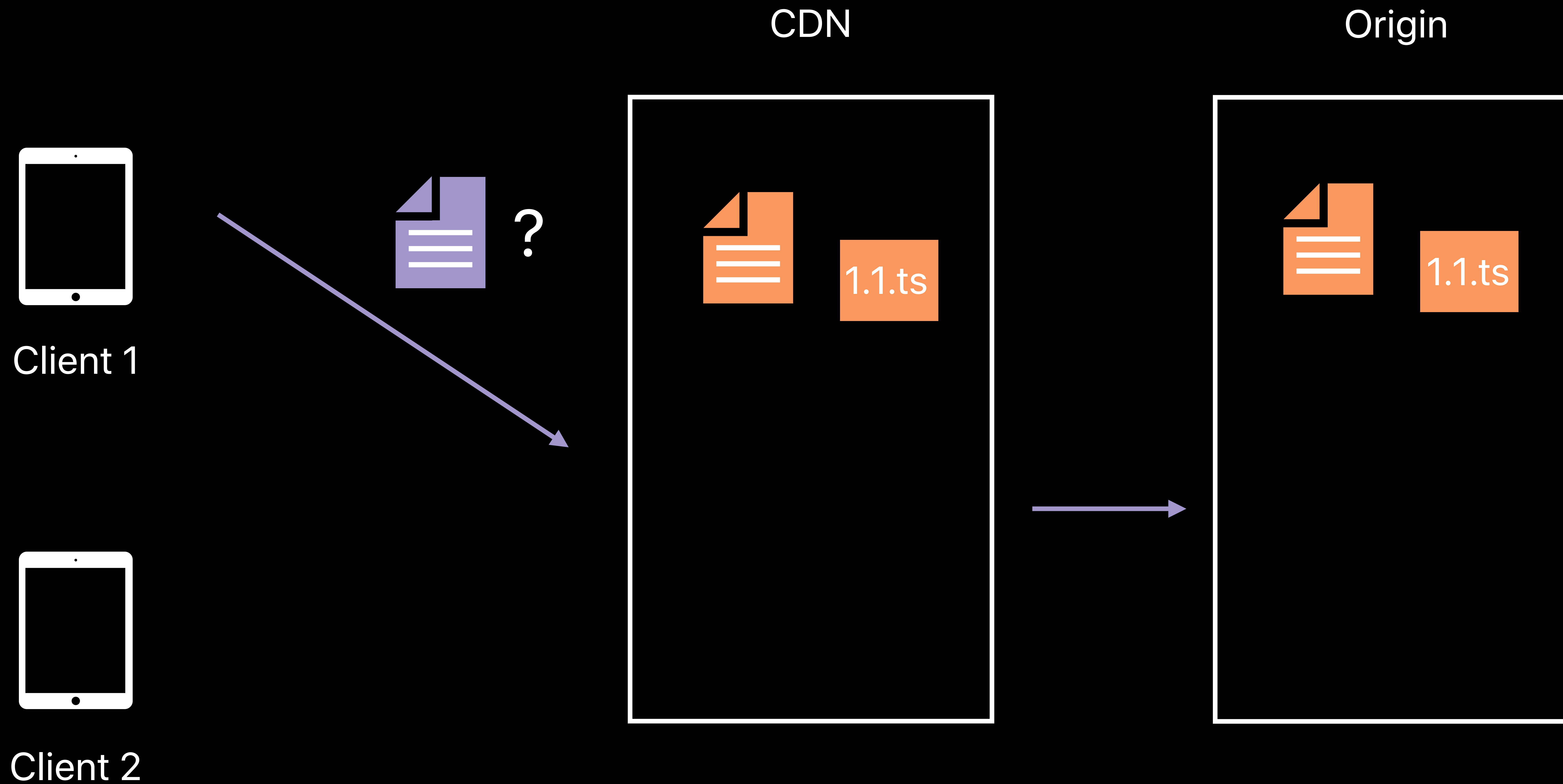
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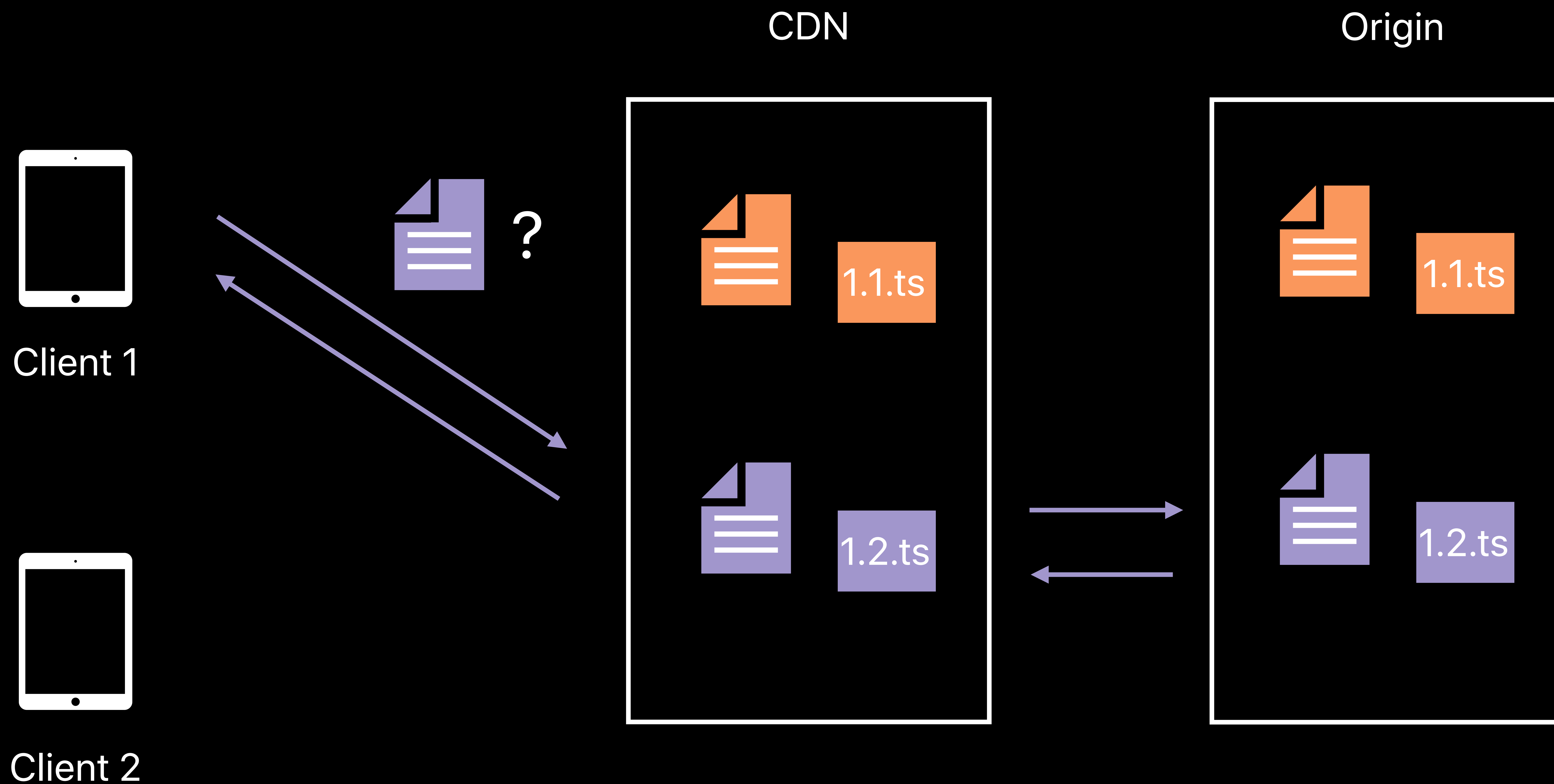
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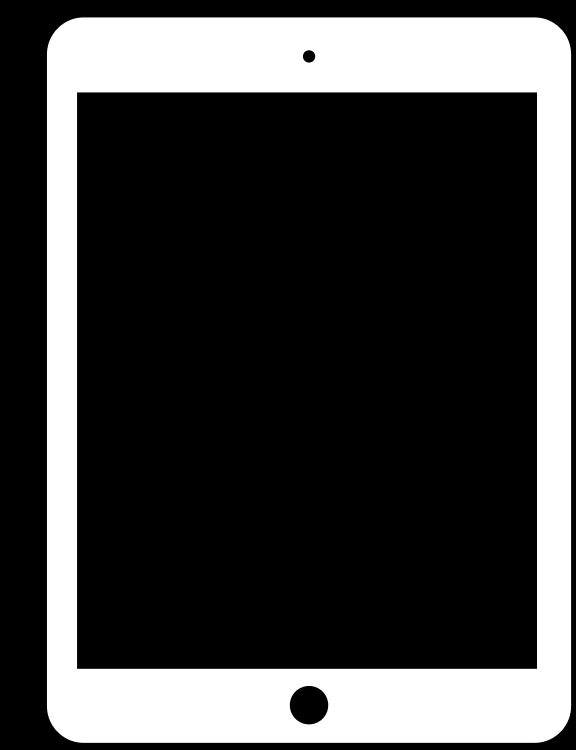
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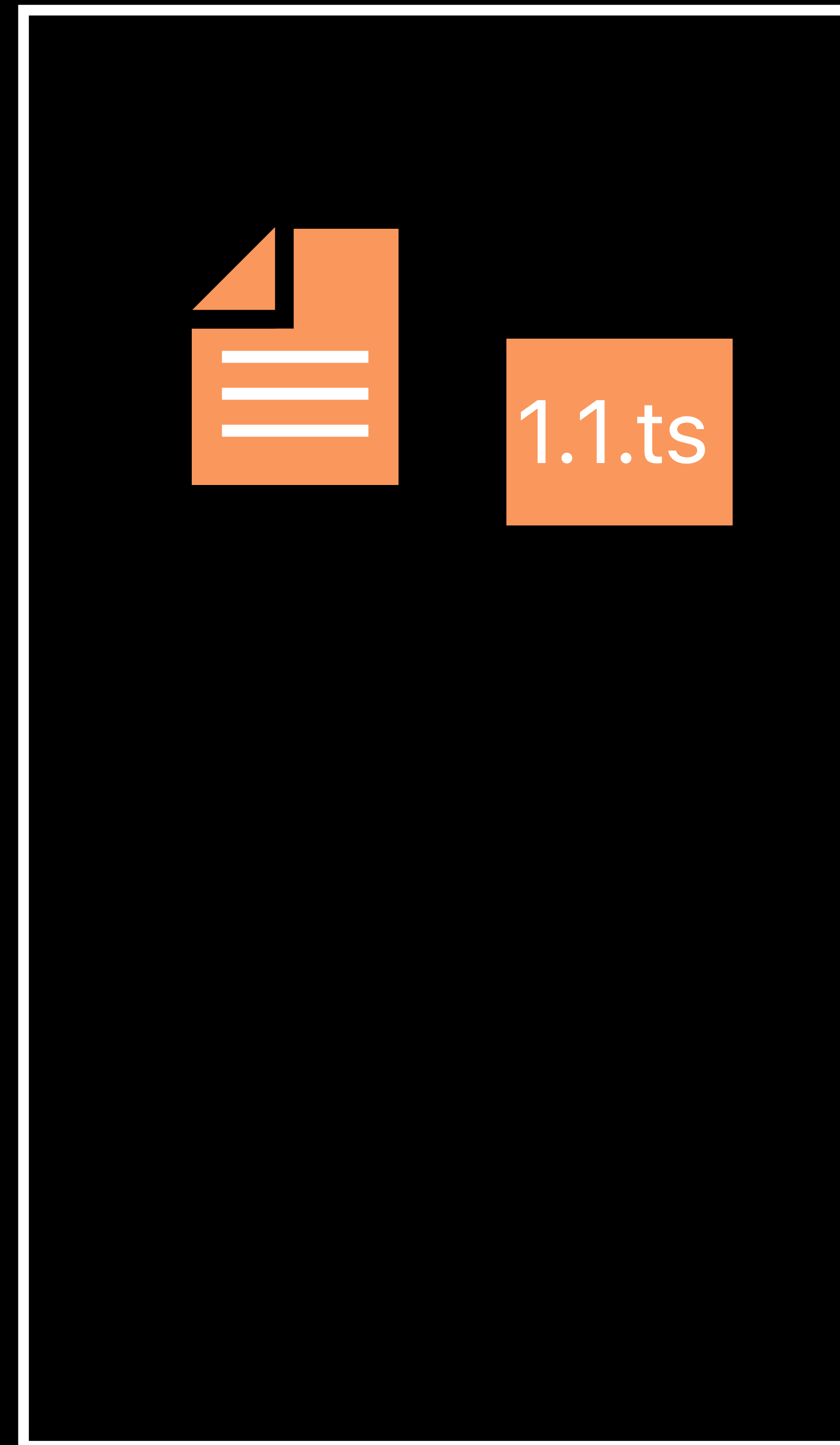
# Eliminate Segment Round Trip

Eliminate Round Trips

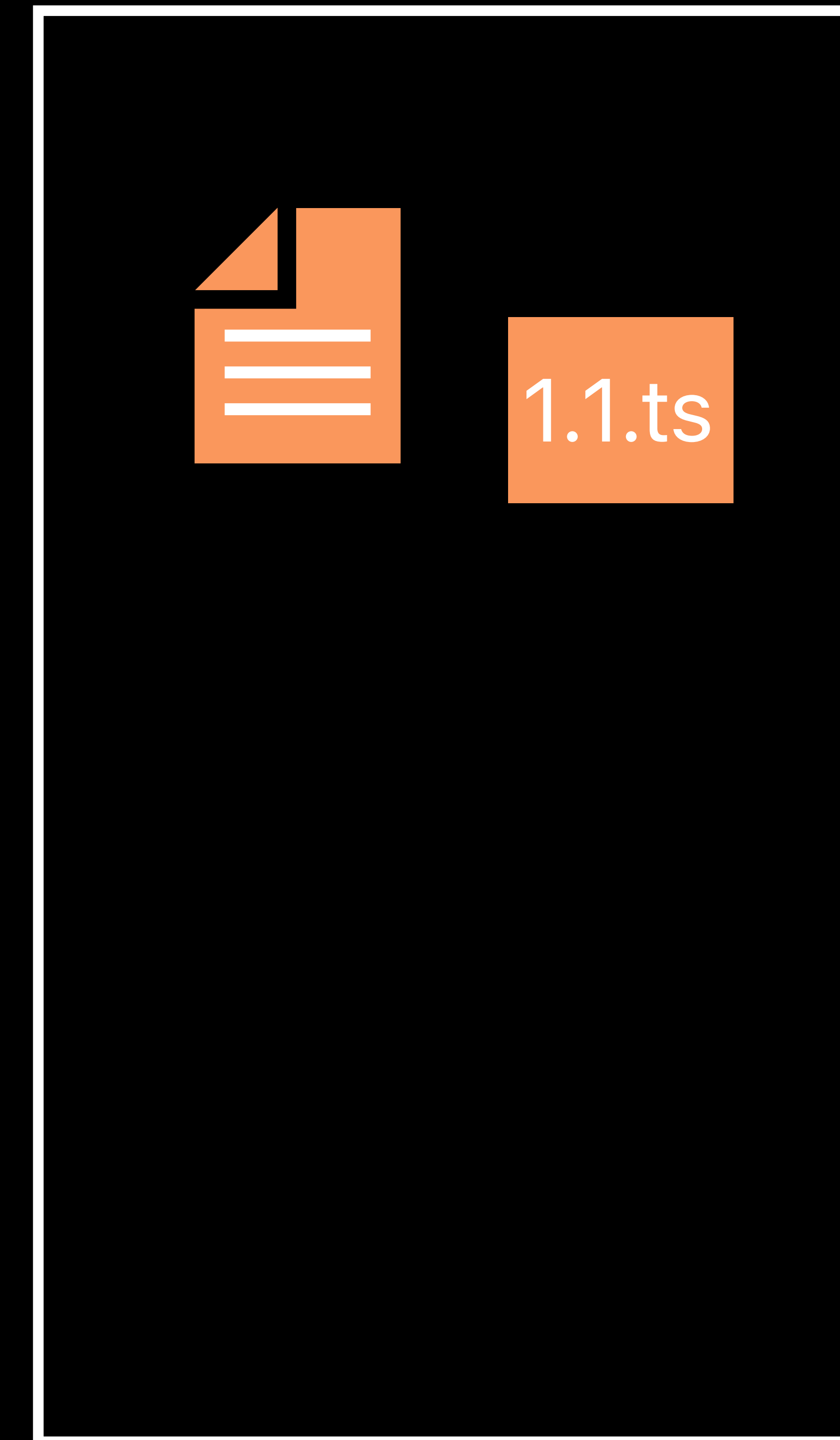


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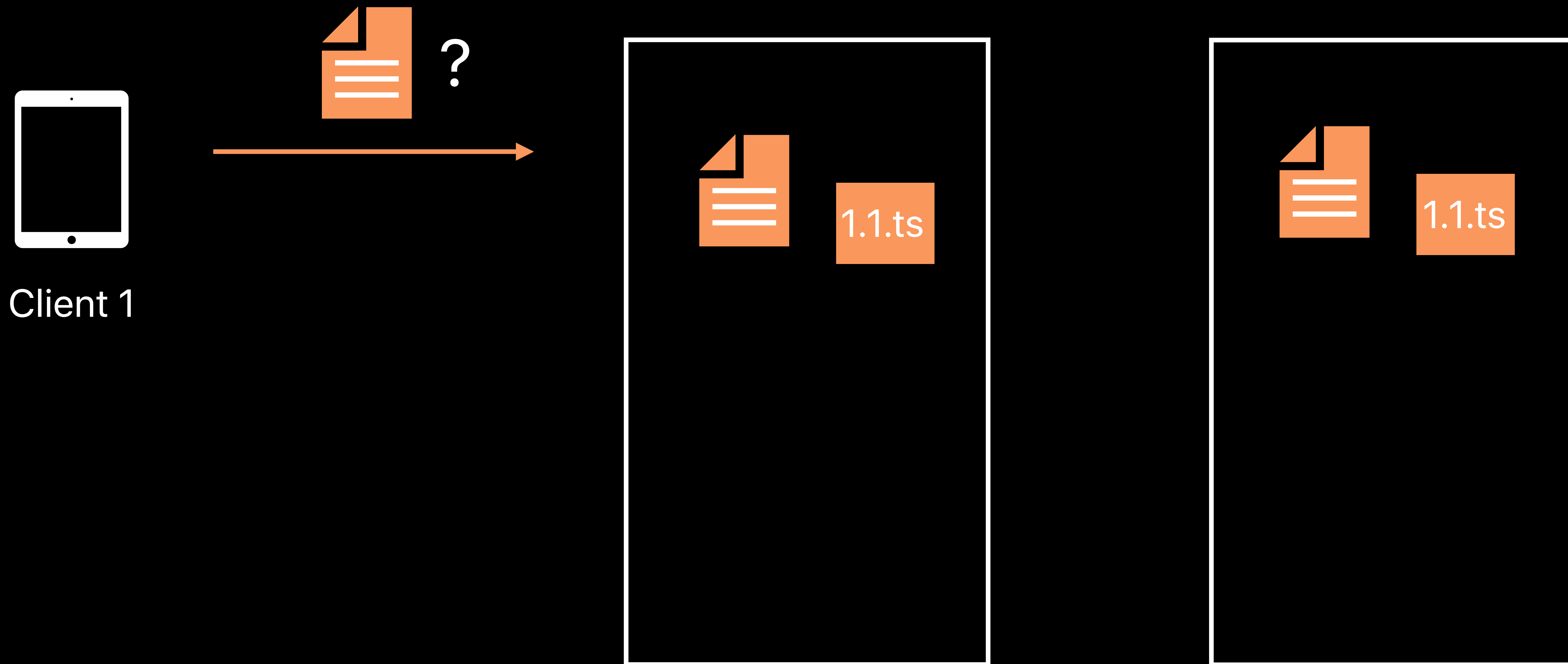
Origin





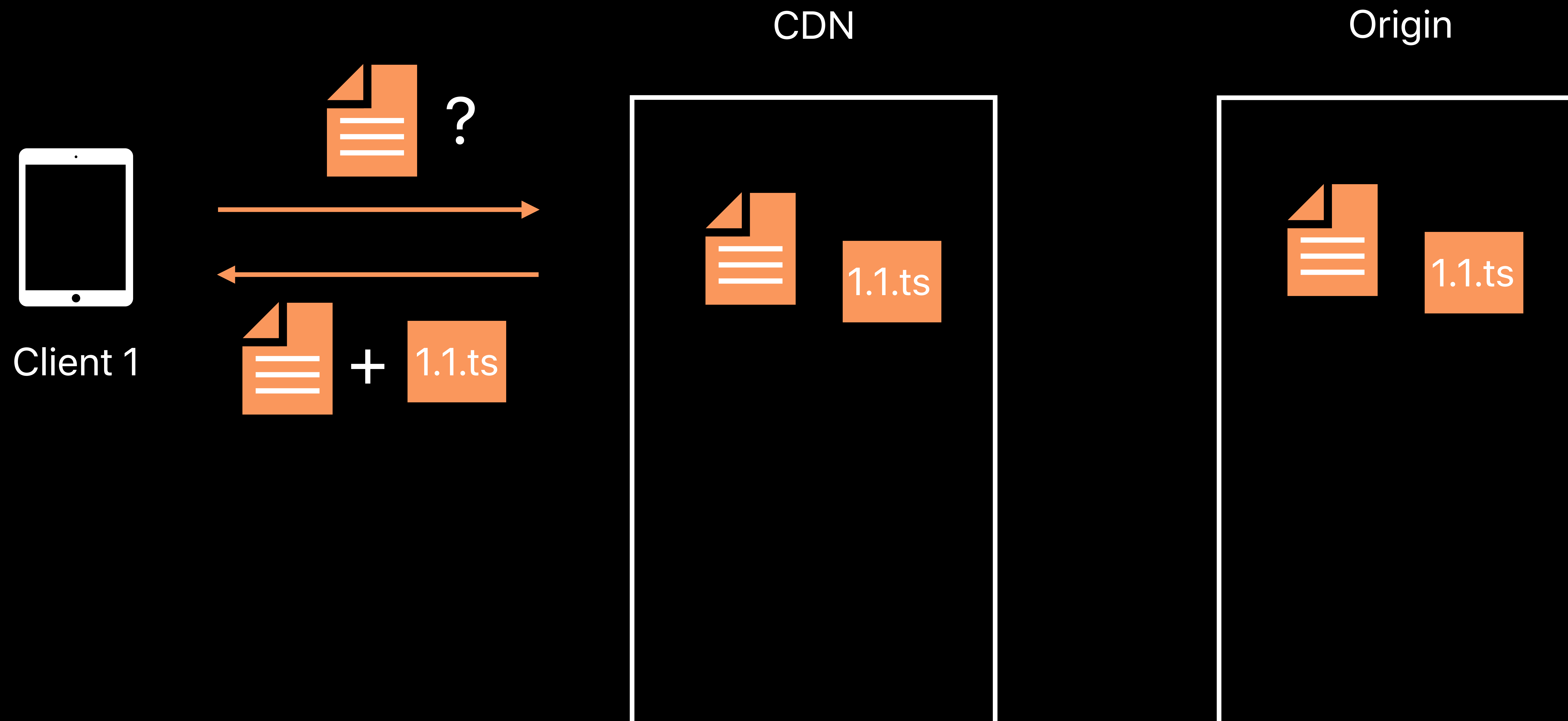
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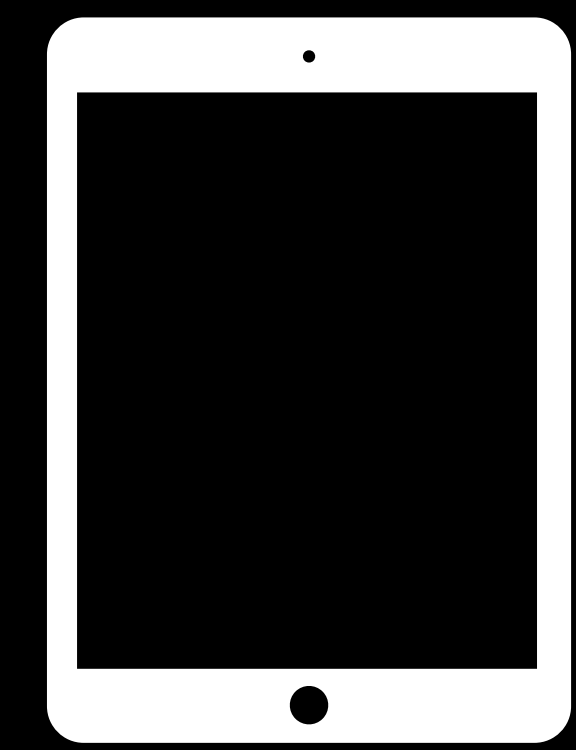
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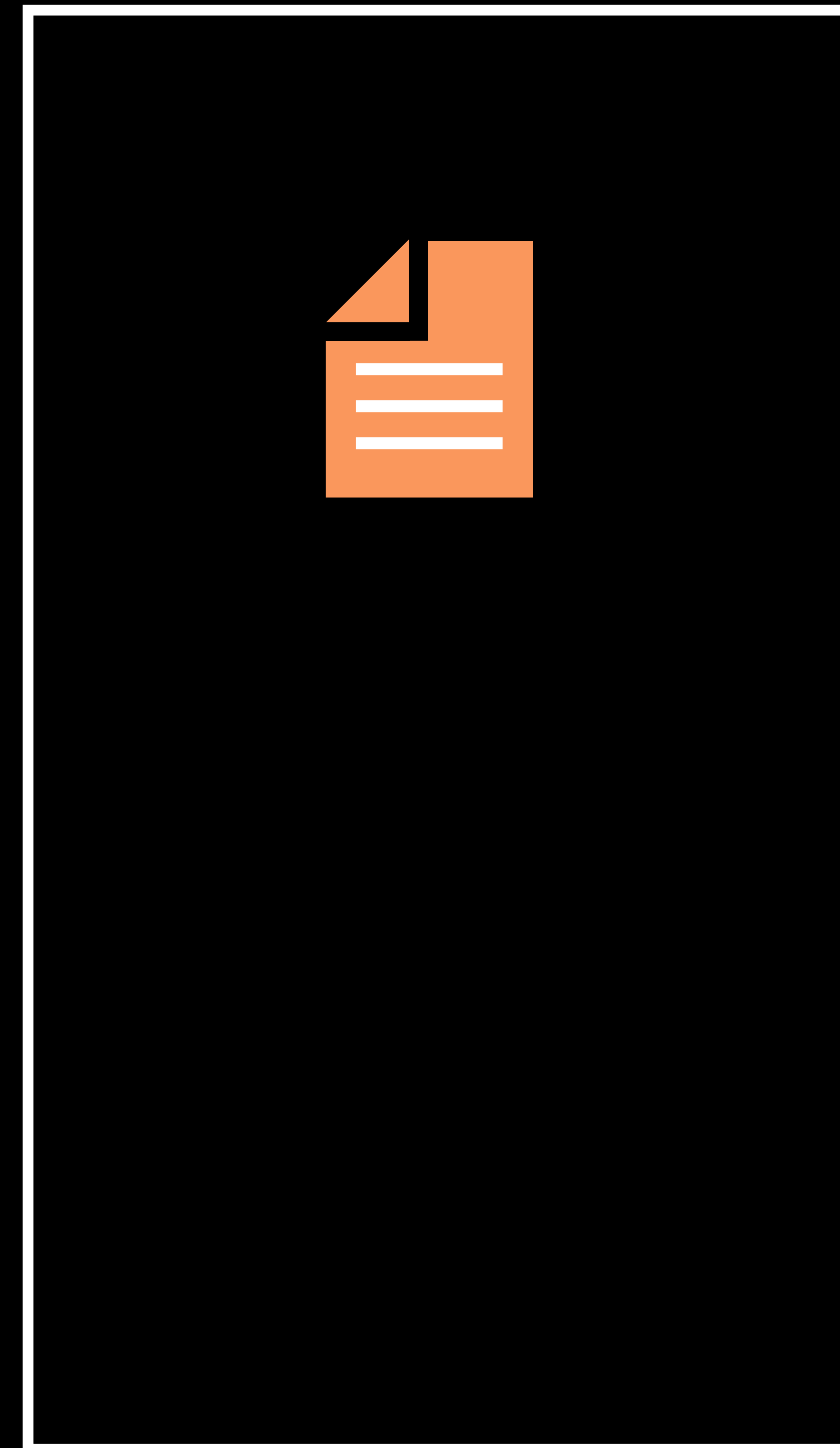
# Reduce Playlist Transfer Overhead

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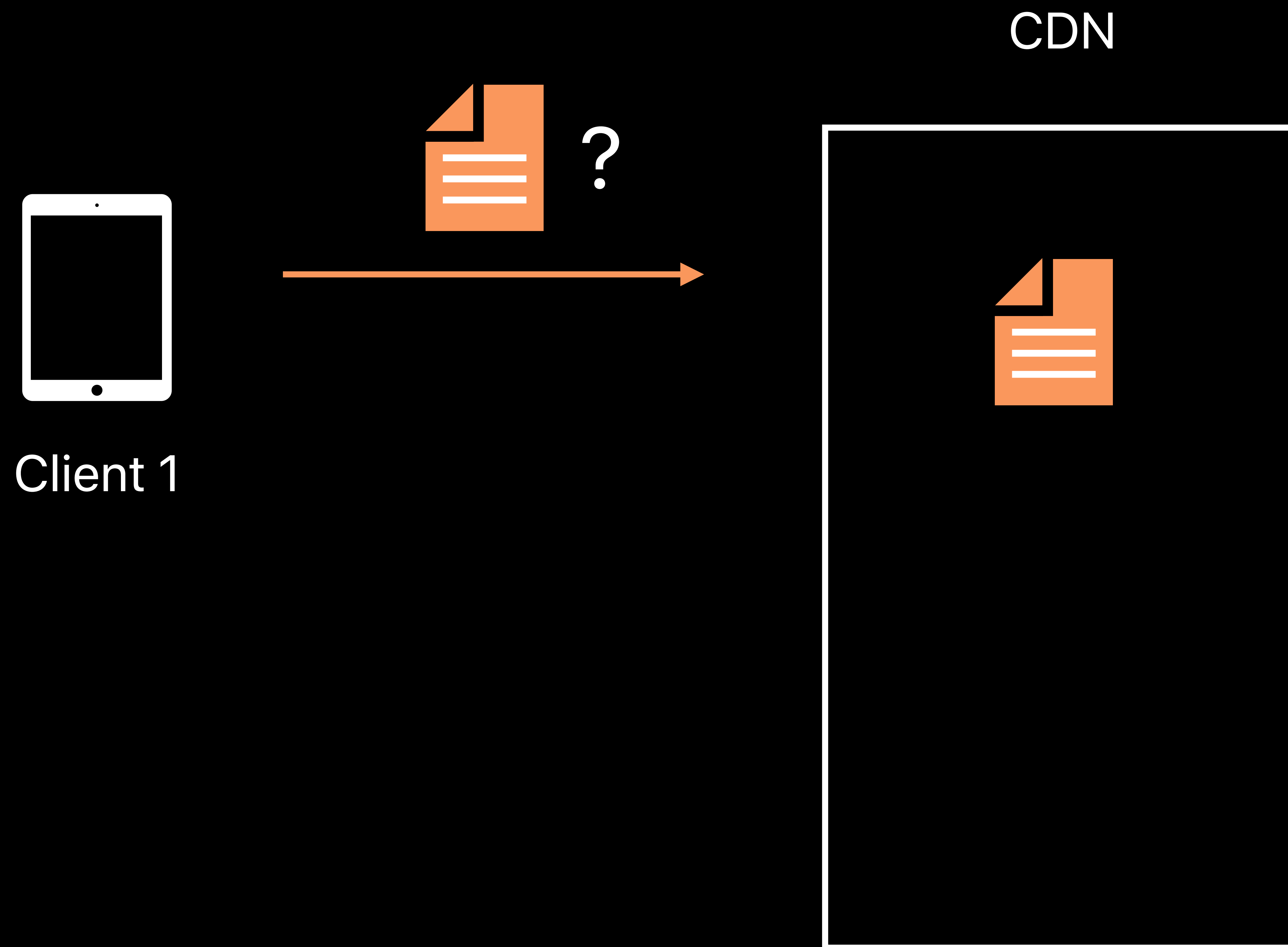
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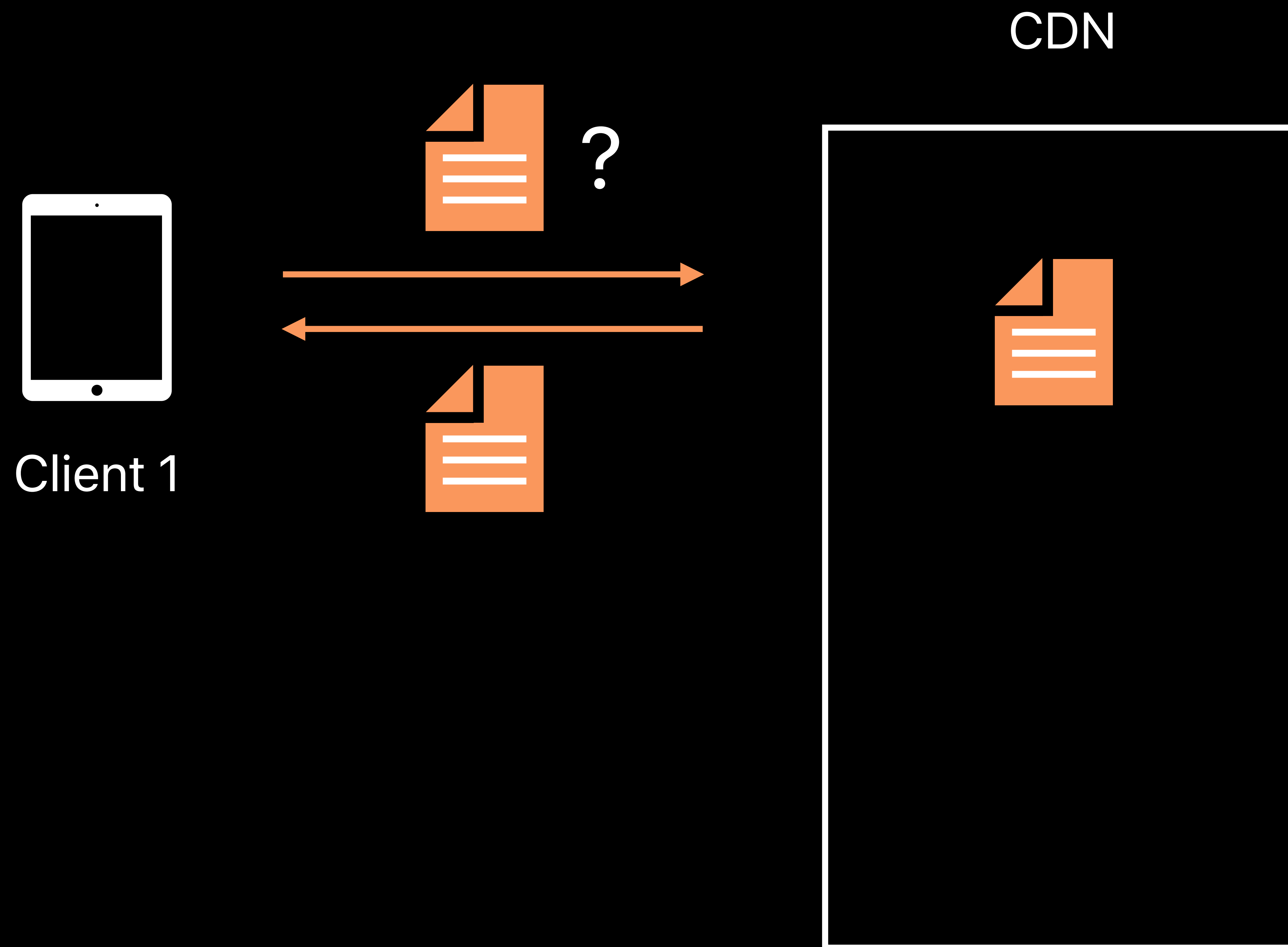
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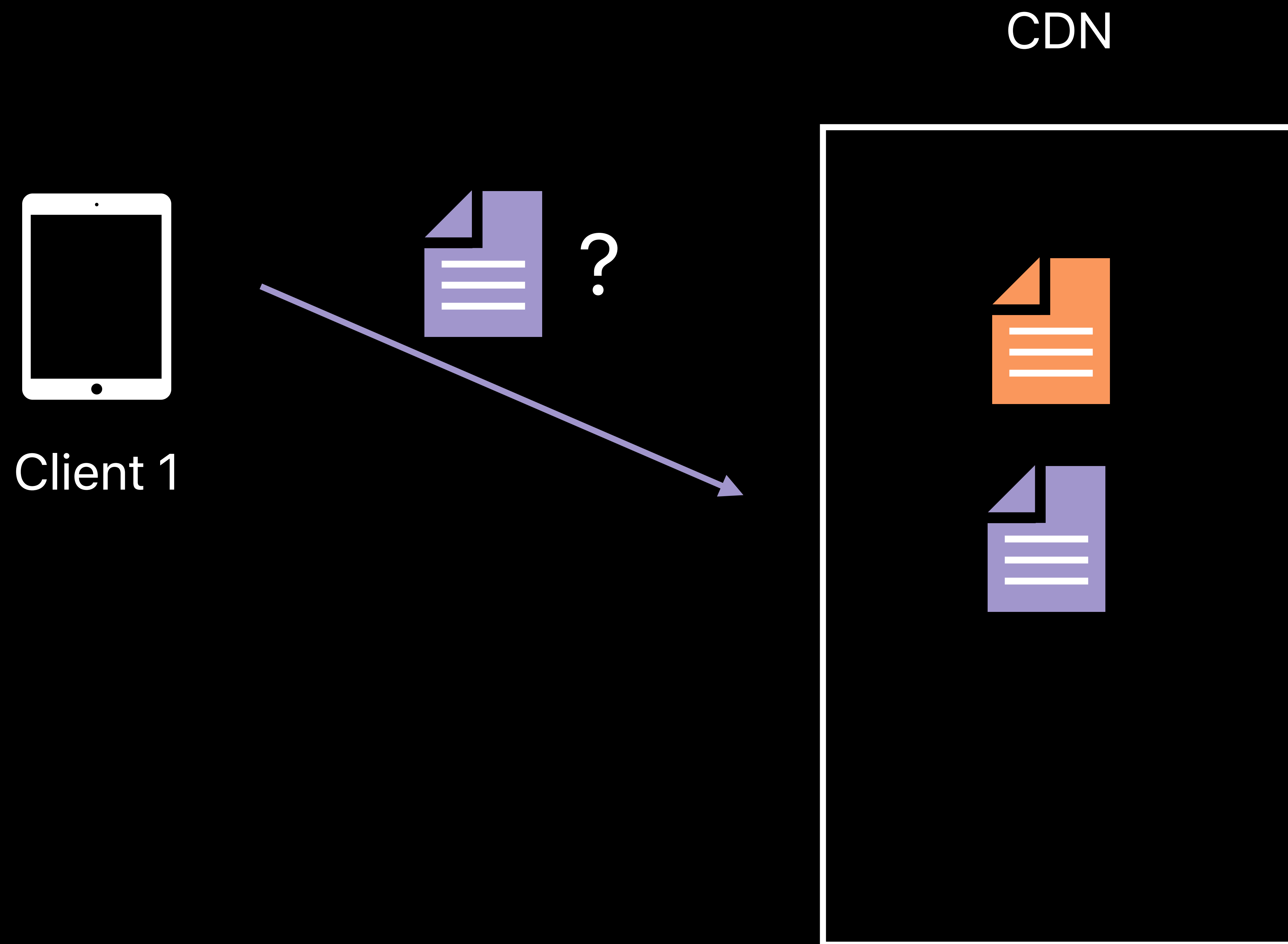
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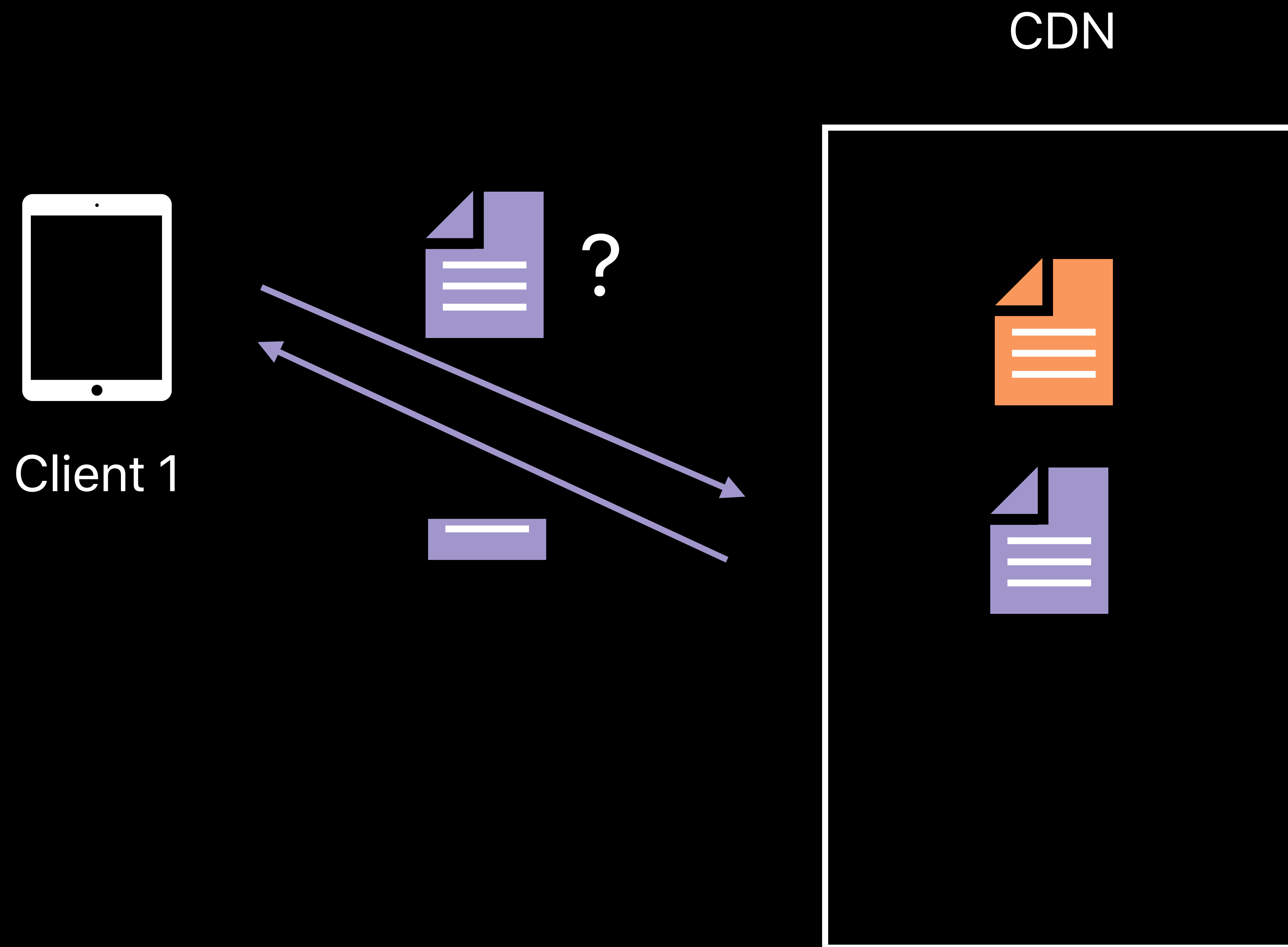
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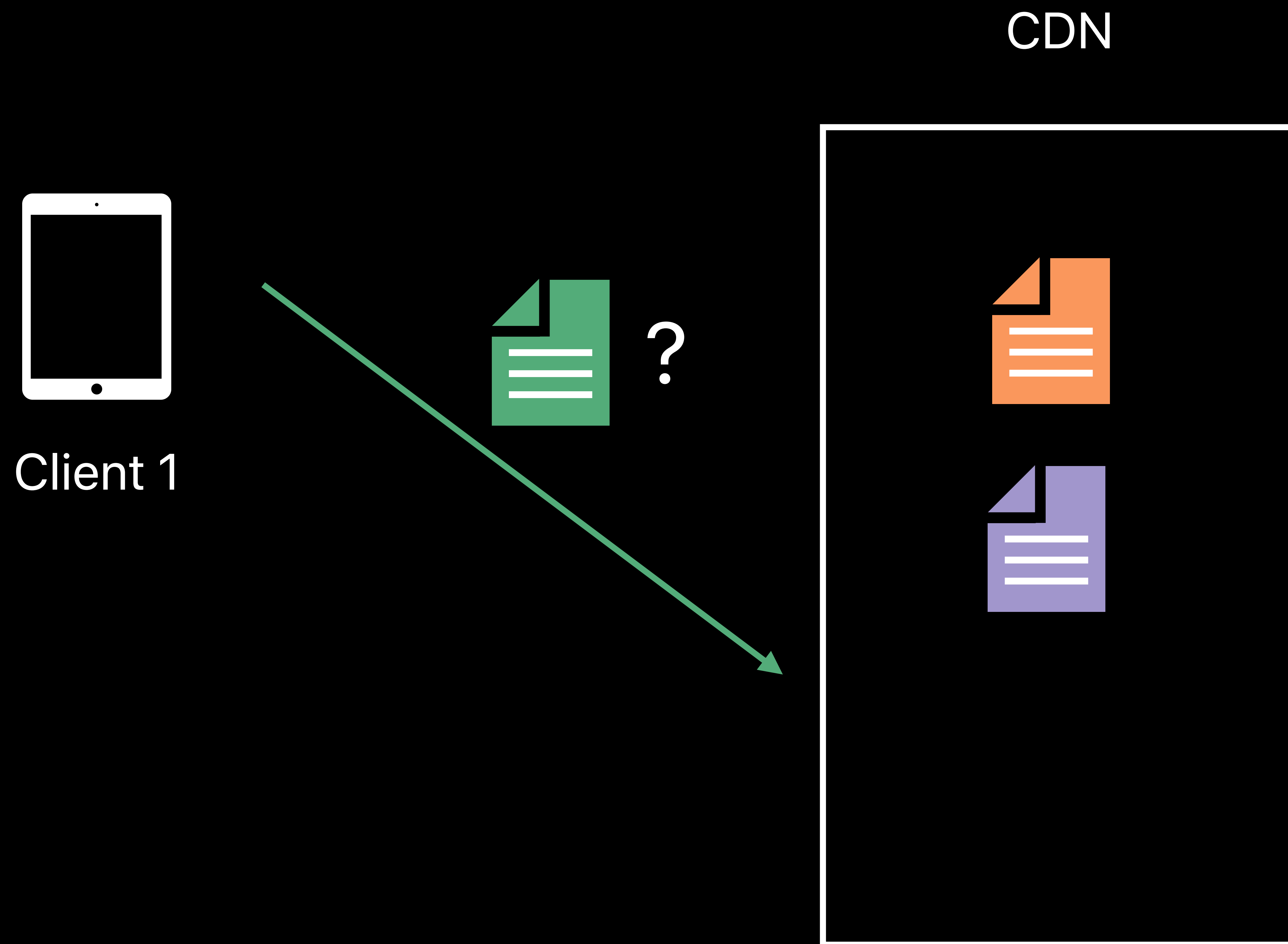
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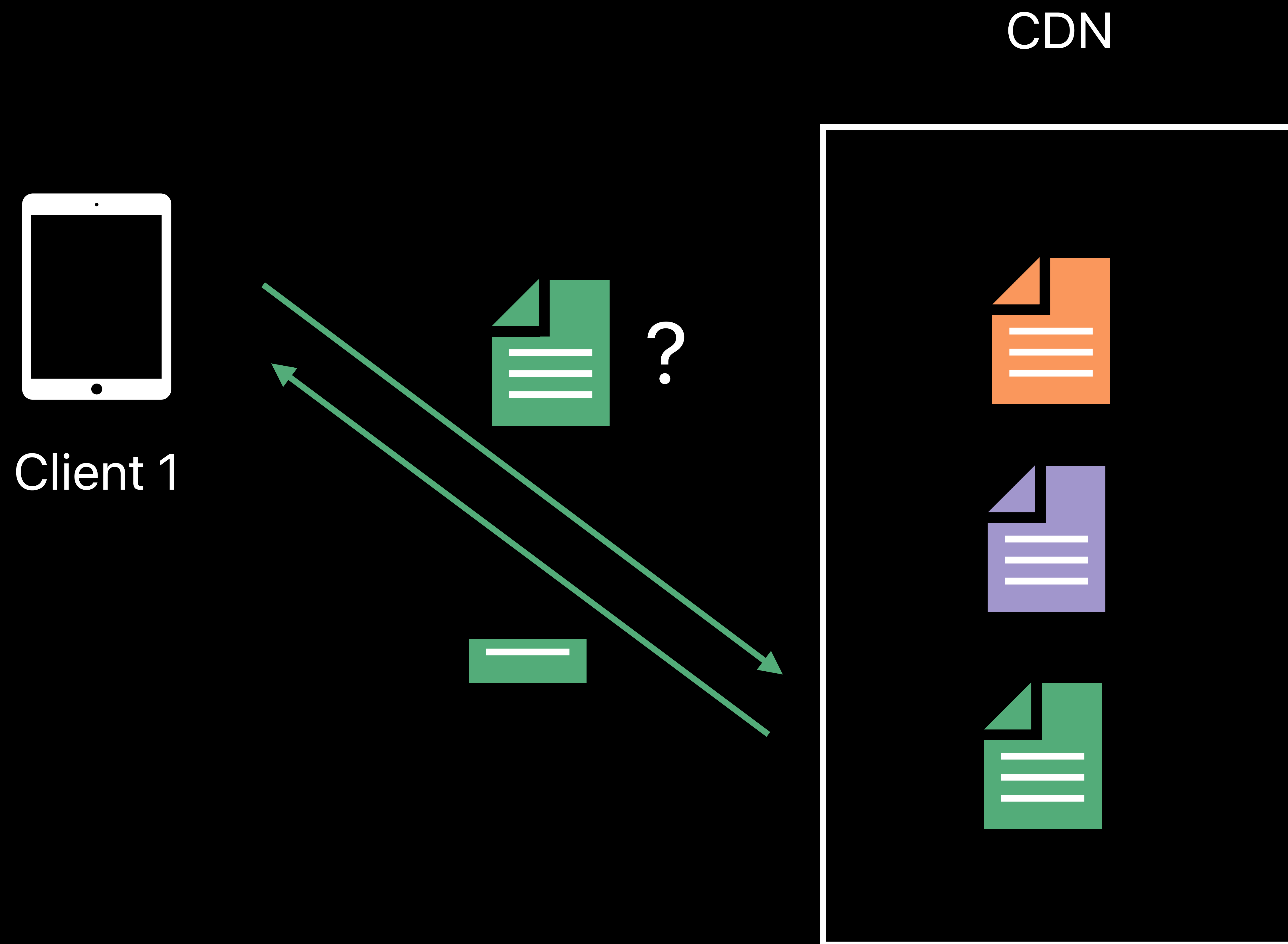
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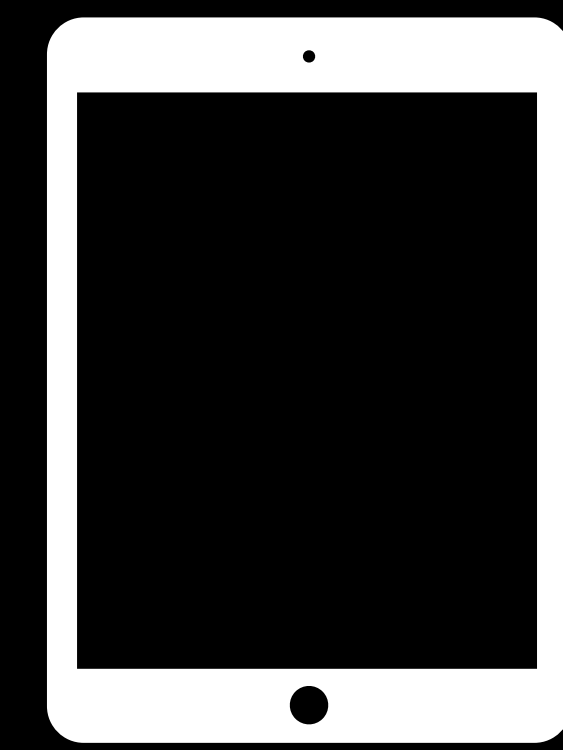
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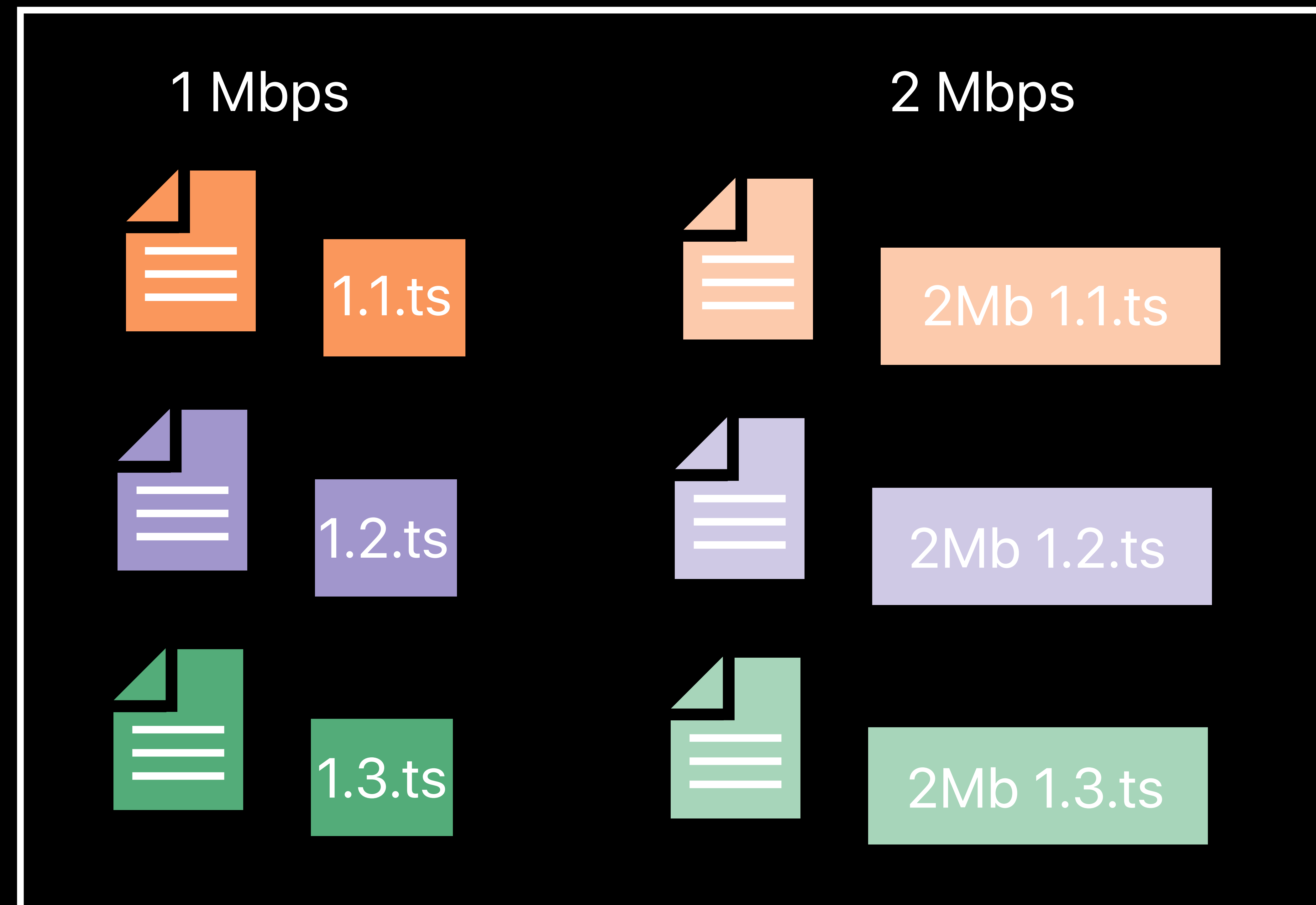
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Switch Tiers Quickly



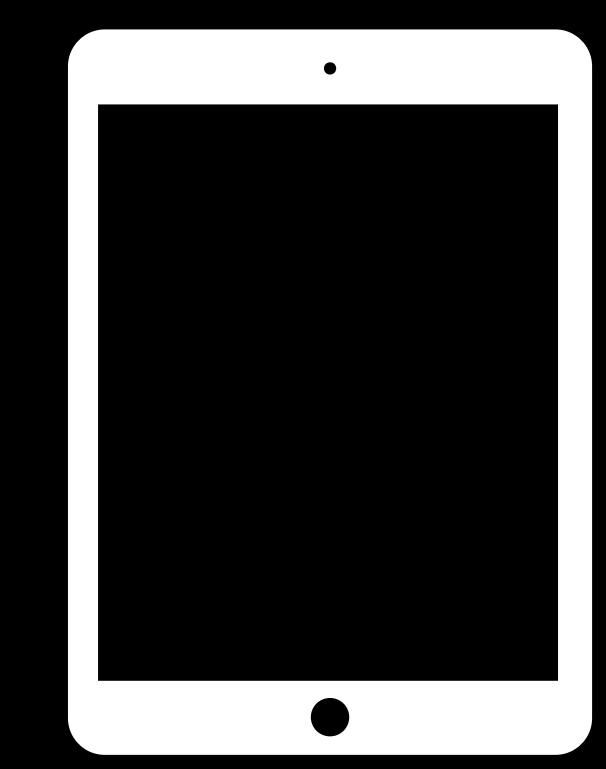
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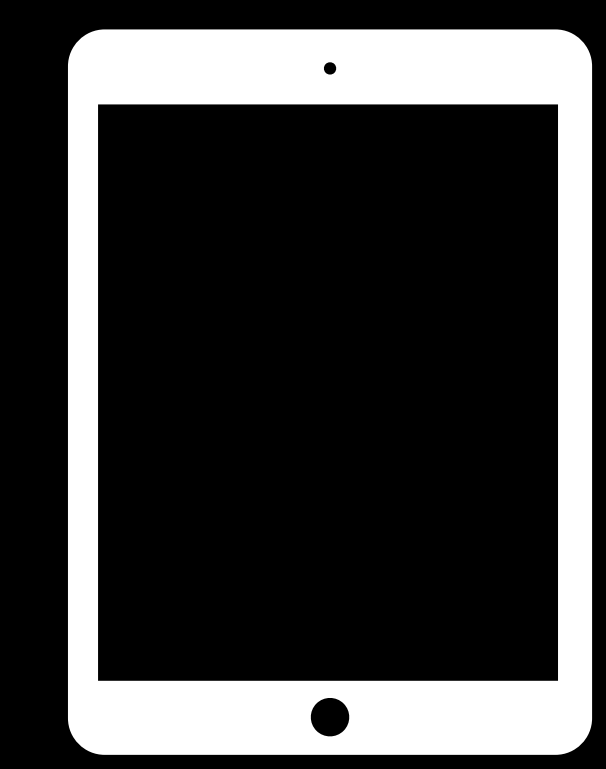
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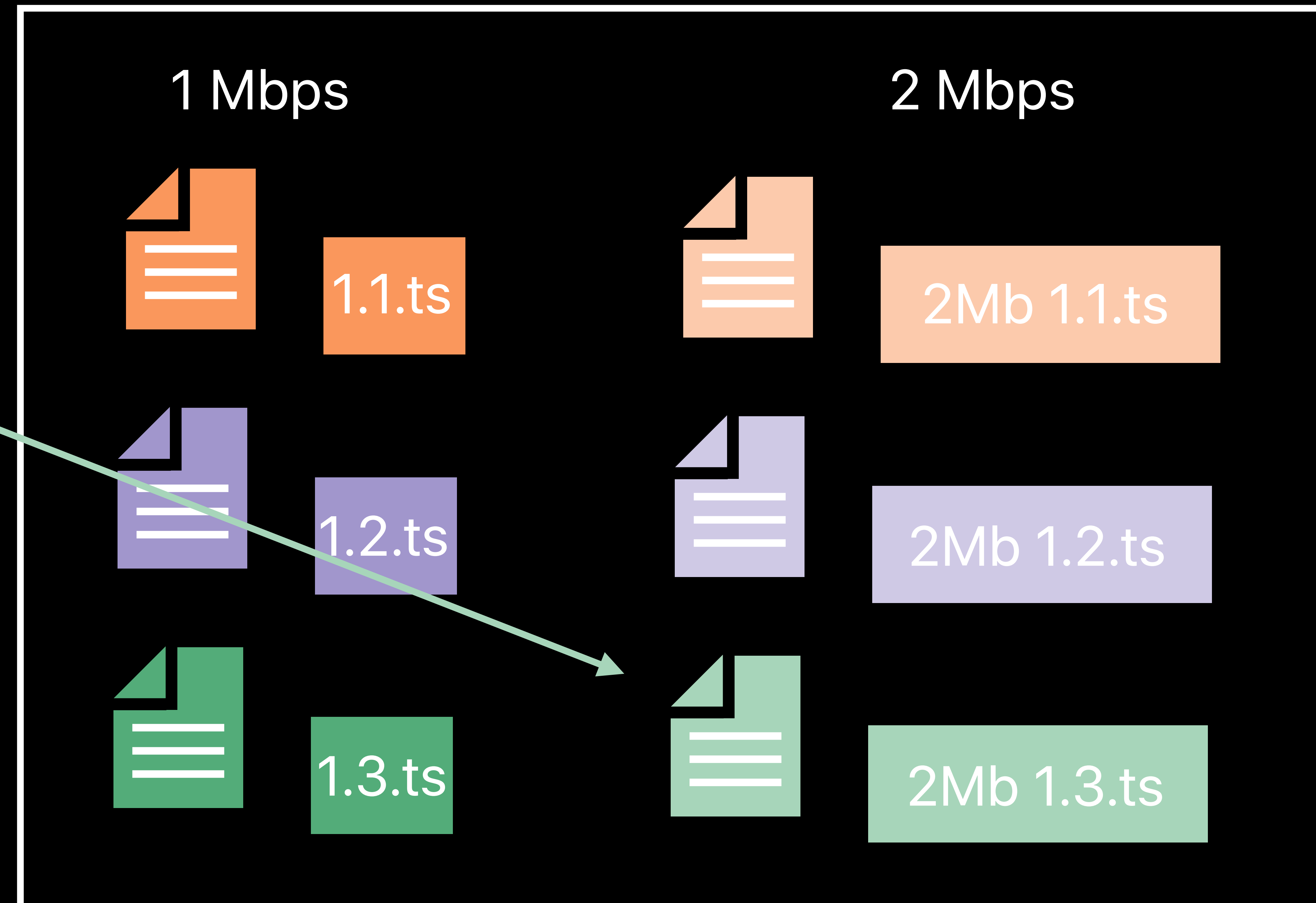
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**Reduce Publishing Latency**

**Optimize Discovery**

**Eliminate Round Trips**

**Reduce Transfer Overhead**

**Switch Tiers Quickly**

# The Details

# Origin API

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Enabled by EXT-X-SERVER-CONTROL



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Small number of server directives

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Carried as query parameters on Playlist URL

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GET `https://example.com/live.m3u8?_HLS_skip=YES`

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GET https://example.com/live.m3u8?_HLS_skip=YES
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**\_HLS\*** parameters are reserved on m3u8 URLs

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Small number of server directives

Carried as query parameters on Playlist URL

GET `https://example.com/live.m3u8?_HLS_skip=YES`

`_HLS*` parameters are reserved on m3u8 URLs

Sorted within URL to improve CDN hit ratio

# Partial Segments

Reduce Publishing Latency

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Playlists update every Partial Segment

Publishing latency becomes the Partial Segment duration

Partial Segments appear in parallel to regular Segments in Playlist

# Partial Segments Disappear Quickly

Reduce Publishing Latency

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Partial Segments only at live edge of Playlist

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Partial Segments



Segment



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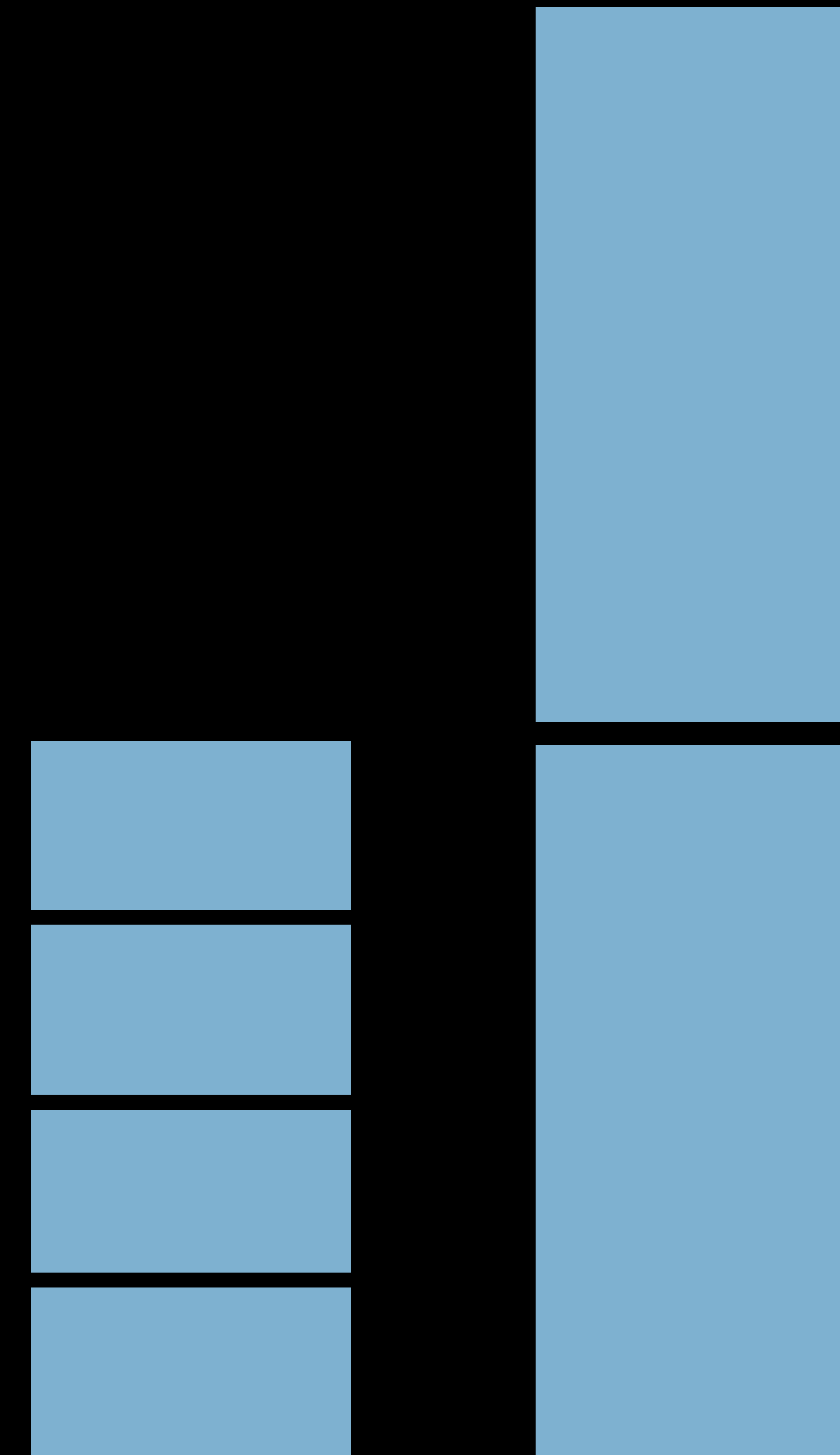
Reduce Publishing Latency

Partial Segments only at live edge of Playlist

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Partial Segments

Segment



```
# The new EXT-X-PART Tag  
#EXTM3U  
#EXT-X-TARGETDURATION:6.0  
#EXT-X-PART-INF:PART-TARGET=0.5  
#EXTINF 6.0,  
segment43.ts
```

# The new EXT-X-PART Tag

#EXTM3U

#EXT-X-TARGETDURATION:6.0

#EXT-X-PART-INF:PART-TARGET=0.5

#EXTINF 6.0,

segment43.ts

#EXT-X-PART:URI="segment44.1.ts",DURATION=0.5,INDEPENDENT=YES

```
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#EXTM3U
#EXT-X-TARGETDURATION:6.0
#EXT-X-PART-INF:PART-TARGET=0.5
#EXTINF 6.0,
segment43.ts
#EXT-X-PART:URI="segment44.1.ts",DURATION=0.5,INDEPENDENT=YES
#EXT-X-PART:URI="segment44.2.ts",DURATION=0.5
```

```
# The new EXT-X-PART Tag
#EXTM3U
#EXT-X-TARGETDURATION:6.0
#EXT-X-PART-INF:PART-TARGET=0.5
#EXTINF 6.0,
segment43.ts
#EXT-X-PART:URI="segment44.1.ts",DURATION=0.5,INDEPENDENT=YES
#EXT-X-PART:URI="segment44.2.ts",DURATION=0.5
⋮
```

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#EXTINF 6.0,
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#EXT-X-PART:URI="segment44.2.ts",DURATION=0.5
:
#EXT-X-PART:URI="segment44.12.ts",DURATION=0.5
#EXTINF 6.0,
segment44.ts
```



```
# The new EXT-X-PART Tag
#EXTM3U
#EXT-X-TARGETDURATION:6.0
#EXT-X-PART-INF:PART-TARGET=0.5
#EXTINF 6.0,
segment43.ts
#EXT-X-PART:URI="segment44.1.ts",DURATION=0.5,INDEPENDENT=YES
#EXT-X-PART:URI="segment44.2.ts",DURATION=0.5
:
#EXT-X-PART:URI="segment44.12.ts",DURATION=0.5
#EXTINF 6.0,
segment44.ts
#EXT-X-PART:URI="segment45.1.ts",DURATION=0.5,INDEPENDENT=YES
```



```
# The new EXT-X-PART Tag
#EXTM3U
#EXT-X-TARGETDURATION:6.0
#EXT-X-PART-INF:PART-TARGET=0.5
#EXTINF 6.0,
segment43.ts
#EXT-X-PART:URI="segment44.1.ts",DURATION=0.5,INDEPENDENT=YES
#EXT-X-PART:URI="segment44.2.ts",DURATION=0.5
:
#EXT-X-PART:URI="segment44.12.ts",DURATION=0.5
#EXTINF 6.0,
segment44.ts
#EXT-X-PART:URI="segment45.1.ts",DURATION=0.5,INDEPENDENT=YES
#EXT-X-PART:URI="segment45.2.ts",DURATION=0.5
:
#EXT-X-PART:URI="segment45.12.ts",DURATION=0.5
#EXTINF 6.0,
segment45.ts
```

```
# The new EXT-X-PART Tag
#EXTM3U
#EXT-X-TARGETDURATION:6.0
#EXT-X-PART-INF:PART-TARGET=0.5
#EXTINF 6.0,
segment43.ts
#EXTINF 6.0,
segment44.ts
#EXT-X-PART:URI="segment45.1.ts",DURATION=0.5,INDEPENDENT=YES
#EXT-X-PART:URI="segment45.2.ts",DURATION=0.5
  ⋮
#EXT-X-PART:URI="segment45.12.ts",DURATION=0.5
#EXTINF 6.0,
segment45.ts
```

# Blocking Playlist Reload

Optimize Discovery

# Blocking Playlist Reload

Optimize Discovery

EXT-X-SERVER-CONTROL with CAN-BLOCK-RELOAD attribute

# Blocking Playlist Reload

Optimize Discovery

EXT-X-SERVER-CONTROL with CAN-BLOCK-RELOAD attribute

Clients ask for its next Playlist update in advance

# Blocking Playlist Reload

EXT-X-SERVER-CONTROL with CAN-BLOCK-RELOAD attribute

Clients ask for its next Playlist update in advance

Server holds request until next Segment or Partial Segment appears

#EXTM3U

#EXT-X-TARGETDURATION:6

#EXT-X-MEDIA-SEQUENCE:1800

#EXTINF 6.0,

segment-abc.ts

#EXTINF 6.0,

segment-def.ts

#EXT-X-DISCONTINUITY

#EXTINF 6.0,

ad-xyz.ts



```
#EXTM3U
```

```
#EXT-X-TARGETDURATION:6
```

```
#EXT-X-MEDIA-SEQUENCE:1800
```

```
#EXTINF 6.0,
```

```
segment-abc.ts
```

```
#EXTINF 6.0,
```

```
segment-def.ts
```

```
#EXT-X-DISCONTINUITY
```

```
#EXTINF 6.0,
```

```
ad-xyz.ts
```

Media Sequence Number 1800





```
#EXTM3U
```

```
#EXT-X-TARGETDURATION:6
```

```
#EXT-X-MEDIA-SEQUENCE:1800
```

```
#EXTINF 6.0,
```

```
segment-abc.ts
```

```
#EXTINF 6.0,
```

```
segment-def.ts
```

```
#EXT-X-DISCONTINUITY
```

```
#EXTINF 6.0,
```

```
ad-xyz.ts
```

Media Sequence Number 1800

Media Sequence Number 1801

```
#EXTM3U
```

```
#EXT-X-TARGETDURATION:6
```

```
#EXT-X-MEDIA-SEQUENCE:1800
```

```
#EXTINF 6.0,
```

```
segment-abc.ts
```

```
#EXTINF 6.0,
```

```
segment-def.ts
```

```
#EXT-X-DISCONTINUITY
```

```
#EXTINF 6.0,
```

```
ad-xyz.ts
```

Media Sequence Number 1800

Media Sequence Number 1801

Media Sequence Number 1802

#EXTM3U

#EXT-X-TARGETDURATION:6

#EXT-X-MEDIA-SEQUENCE:1800

#EXTINF 6.0,

segment-abc.ts

#EXTINF 6.0,

segment-def.ts

#EXT-X-DISCONTINUITY

#EXTINF 6.0,

ad-xyz.ts

???

Media Sequence Number 1800

Media Sequence Number 1801

Media Sequence Number 1802

Media Sequence Number 1803



```
# Blocking Playlist Reload  
# Block until Media Sequence Number 1803 is in Playlist  
  
GET https://example.com/live.m3u8?_HLS_msn=1803
```

```
# Blocking Playlist Reload  
# Block until Media Sequence Number 1803 is in Playlist
```

```
GET https://example.com/live.m3u8?_HLS_msn=1803
```

```
# Block until first part of Media Sequence Number 1803 is in Playlist
```

```
GET https://example.com/live.m3u8?_HLS_msn=1803&_HLS_part=0&_HLS_push=1
```



```
# Blocking Playlist Reload  
# Block until Media Sequence Number 1803 is in Playlist
```

```
GET https://example.com/live.m3u8?_HLS_msn=1803
```

```
# Block until first part of Media Sequence Number 1803 is in Playlist
```

```
GET https://example.com/live.m3u8?_HLS_msn=1803&_HLS_part=0&_HLS_push=1
```

```
# Blocking Playlist Reload  
# Block until Media Sequence Number 1803 is in Playlist
```

```
GET https://example.com/live.m3u8?_HLS_msn=1803
```

```
# Block until first part of Media Sequence Number 1803 is in Playlist
```

```
GET https://example.com/live.m3u8?_HLS_msn=1803&_HLS_part=0&_HLS_push=1
```



# HTTP/2

Eliminate Round Trips

# HTTP/2

Eliminate Round Trips

Successor to HTTP 1.1

# HTTP/2

Eliminate Round Trips

Successor to HTTP 1.1

RFC 7540 published in 2015

# HTTP/2

Eliminate Round Trips

Successor to HTTP 1.1

RFC 7540 published in 2015

Widely supported

# HTTP/2

Eliminate Round Trips

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Widely supported

Required for Low Latency HLS

# HTTP/2

Eliminate Round Trips

Successor to HTTP 1.1

RFC 7540 published in 2015

Widely supported

Required for Low Latency HLS

HTTP/2 Push

# HTTP/2

Eliminate Round Trips

Successor to HTTP 1.1

RFC 7540 published in 2015

Widely supported

Required for Low Latency HLS

HTTP/2 Push

- GET response can include secondary resources

# Segment Push

Eliminate Round Trips



# Segment Push

Eliminate Round Trips

GET of Playlist also pushes new Segment

# Segment Push

Eliminate Round Trips

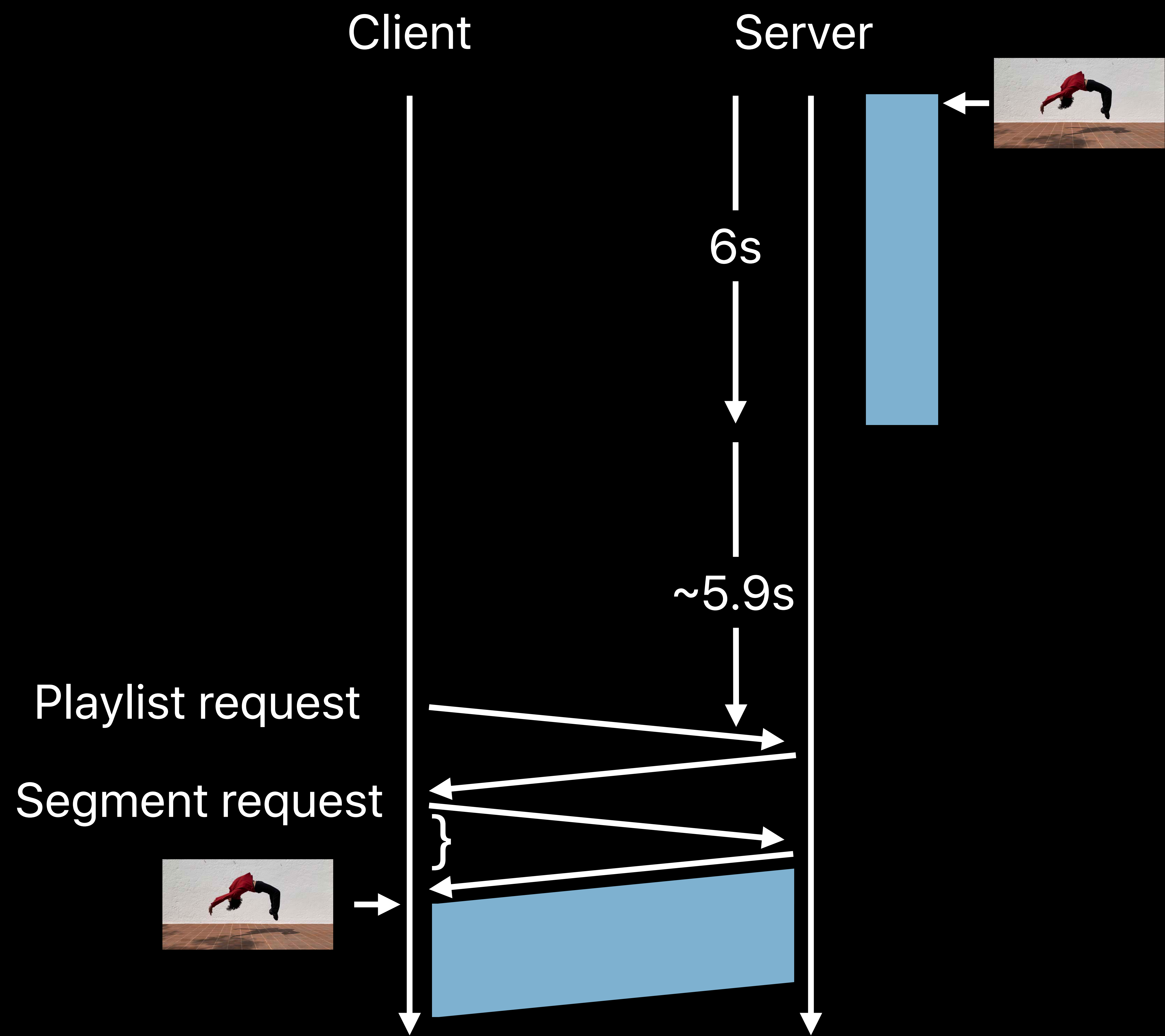
GET of Playlist also pushes new Segment

- Eliminates round trip request

Reduce Publishing Latency

Optimize Discovery

Eliminate Round Trips



Reduce Publishing Latency

Optimize Discovery

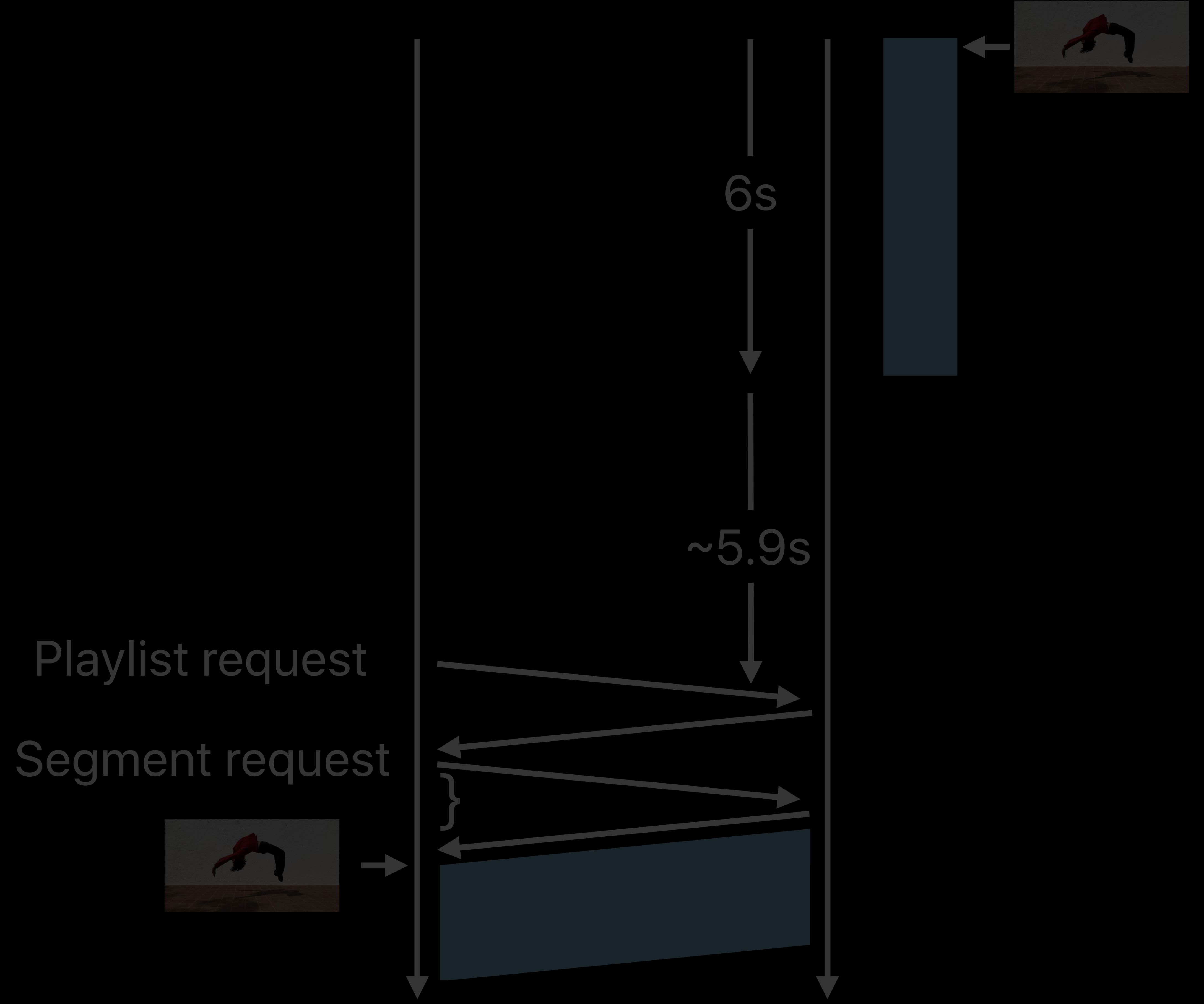
Eliminate Round Trips

Client

Server

LL Client

LL Server



Playlist request

Segment request



6s

~5.9s



Reduce Publishing Latency

Optimize Discovery

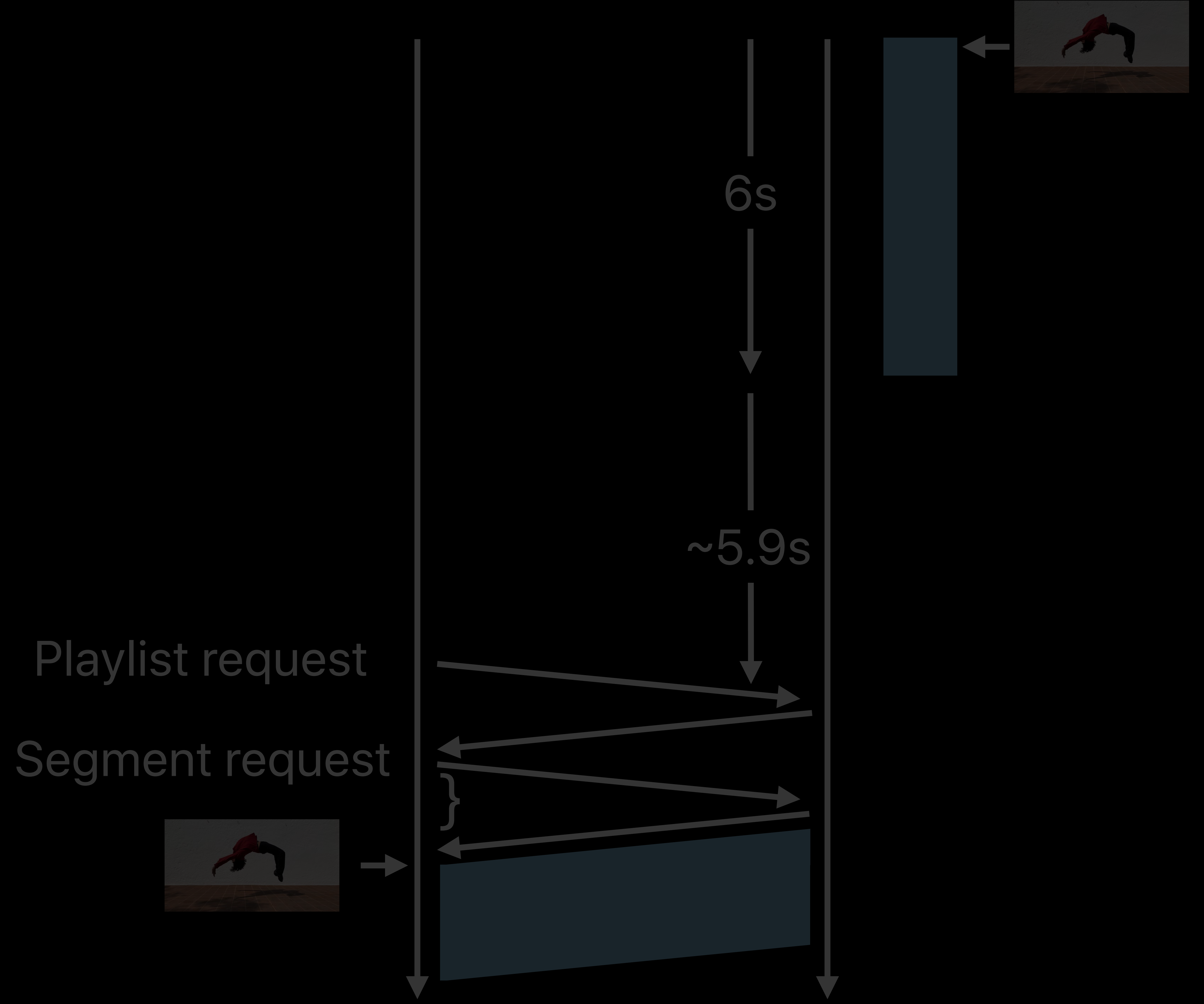
Eliminate Round Trips

Client

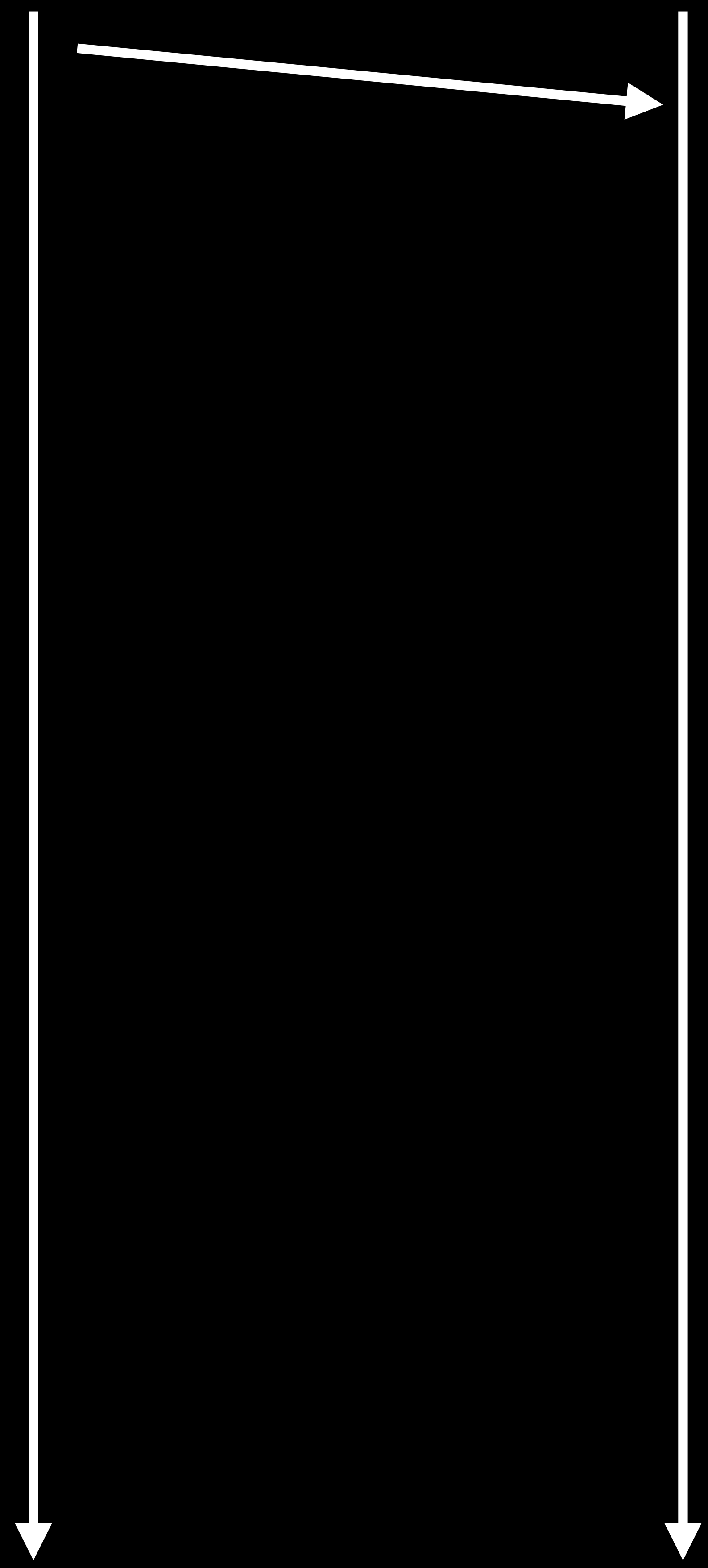
Server

LL Client

LL Server



Playlist request

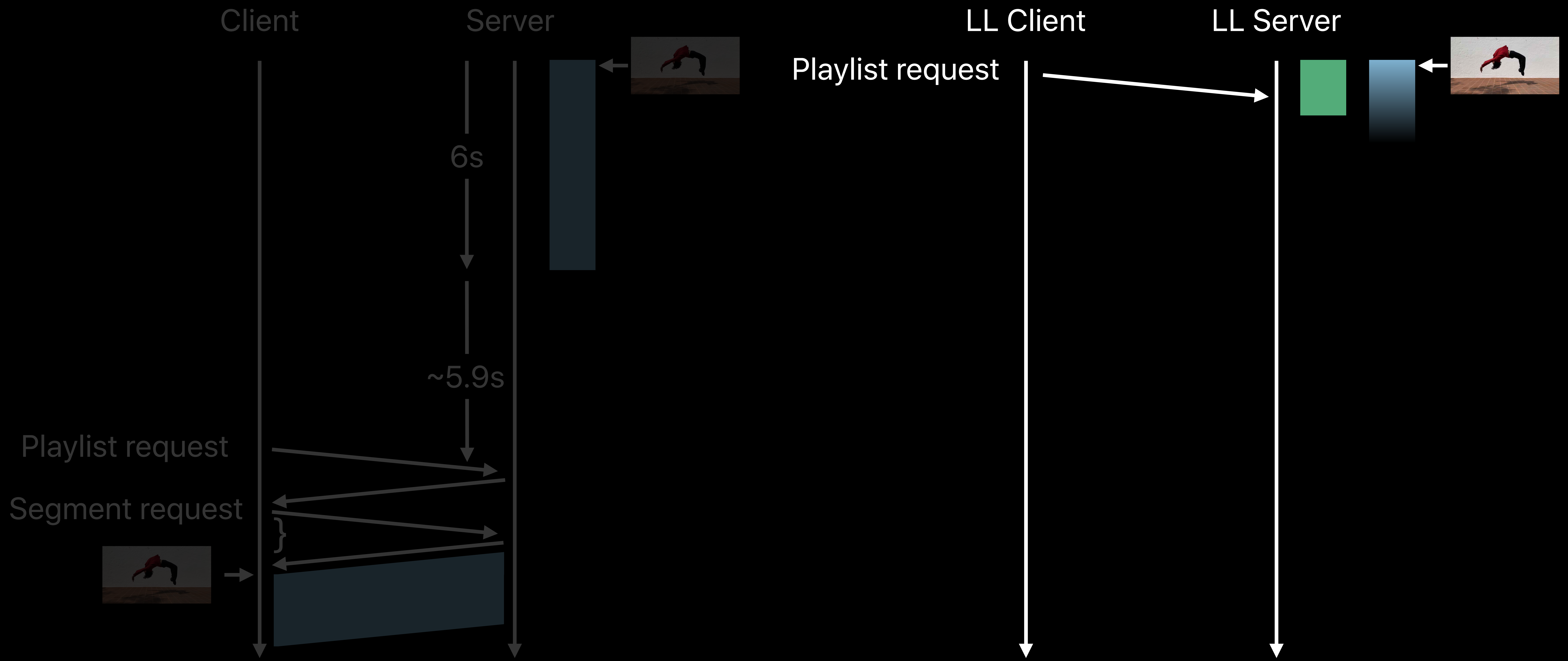




Reduce Publishing Latency

Optimize Discovery

Eliminate Round Trips



Reduce Publishing Latency

Optimize Discovery

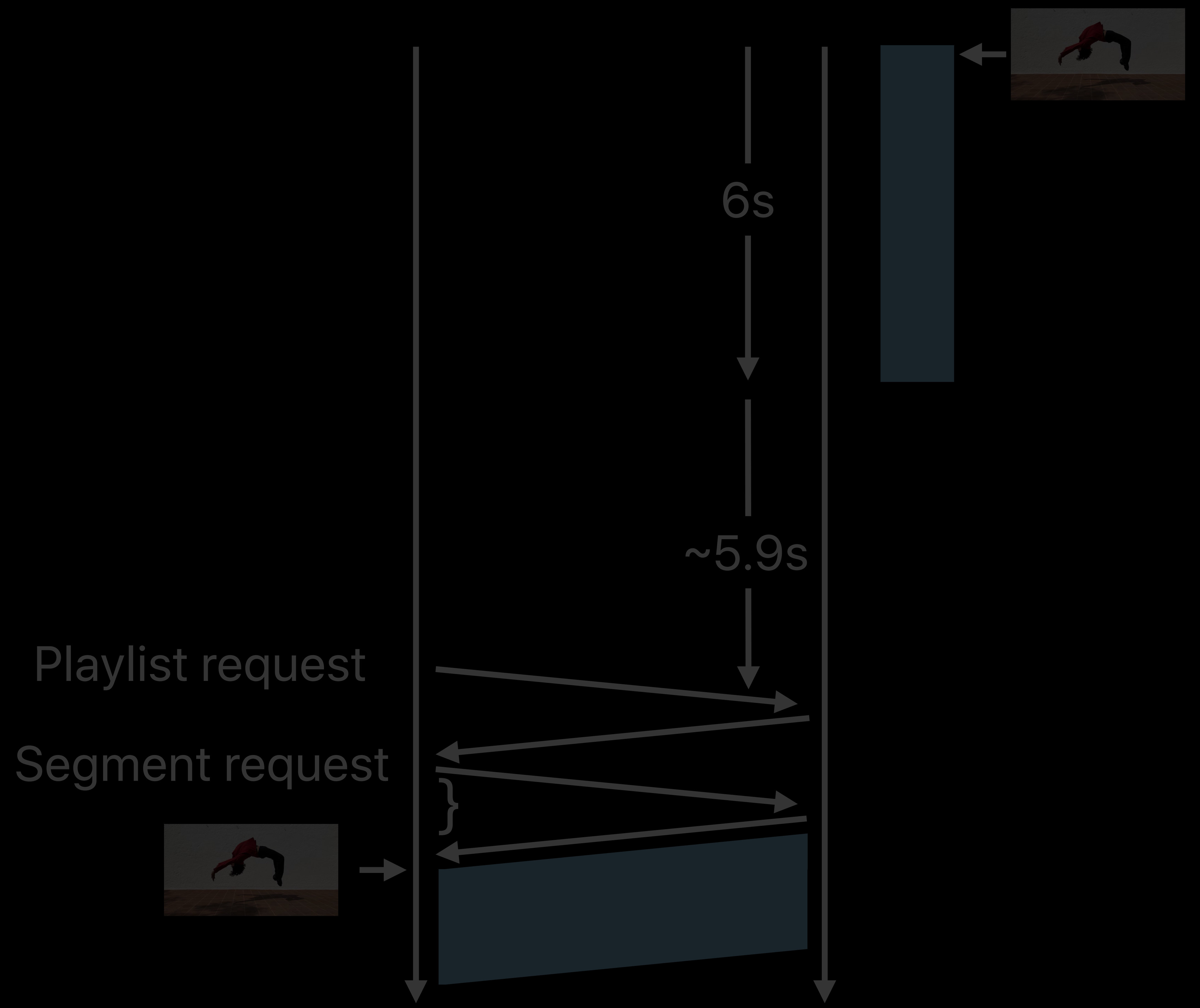
Eliminate Round Trips

Client

Server

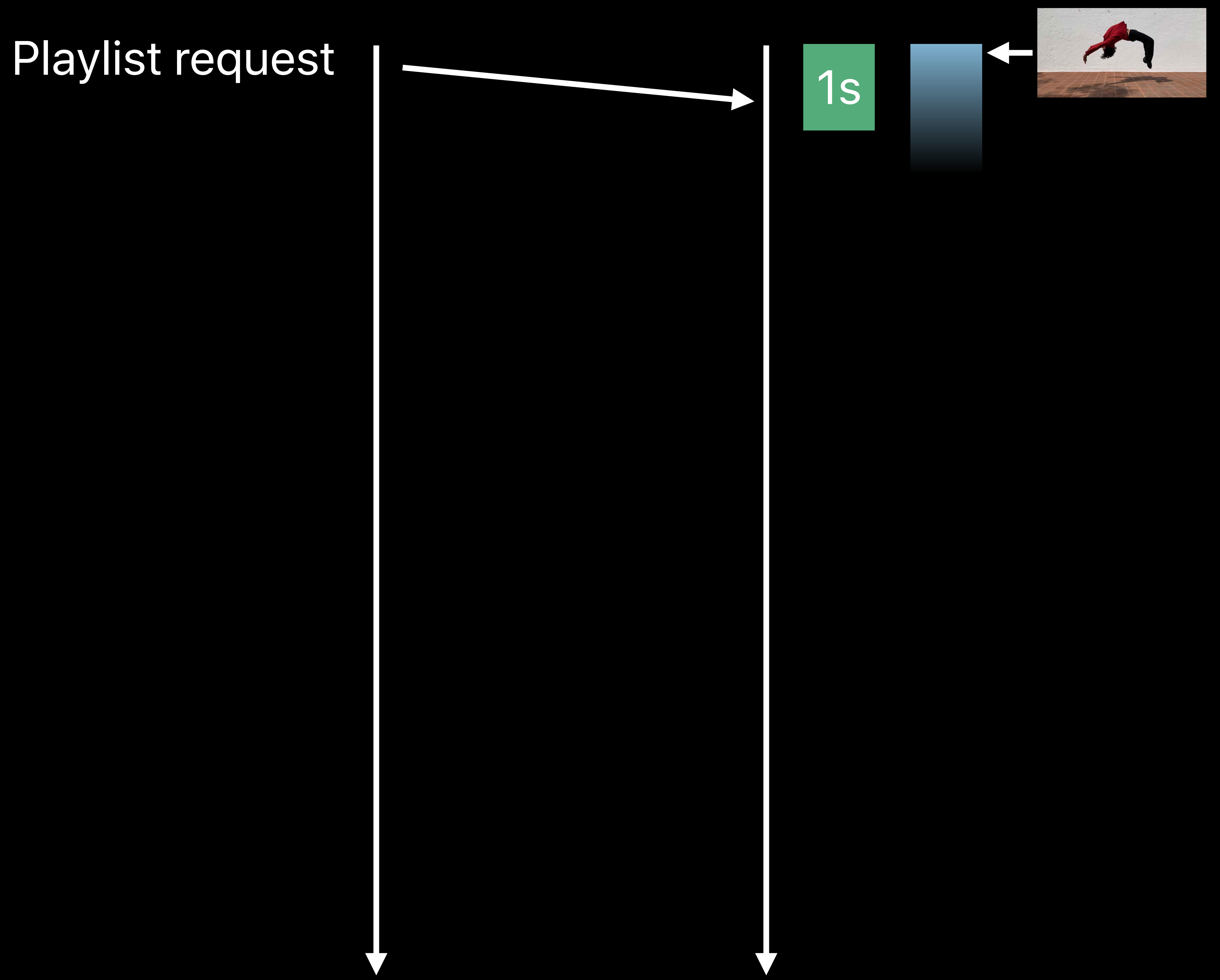
LL Client

LL Server



Playlist request

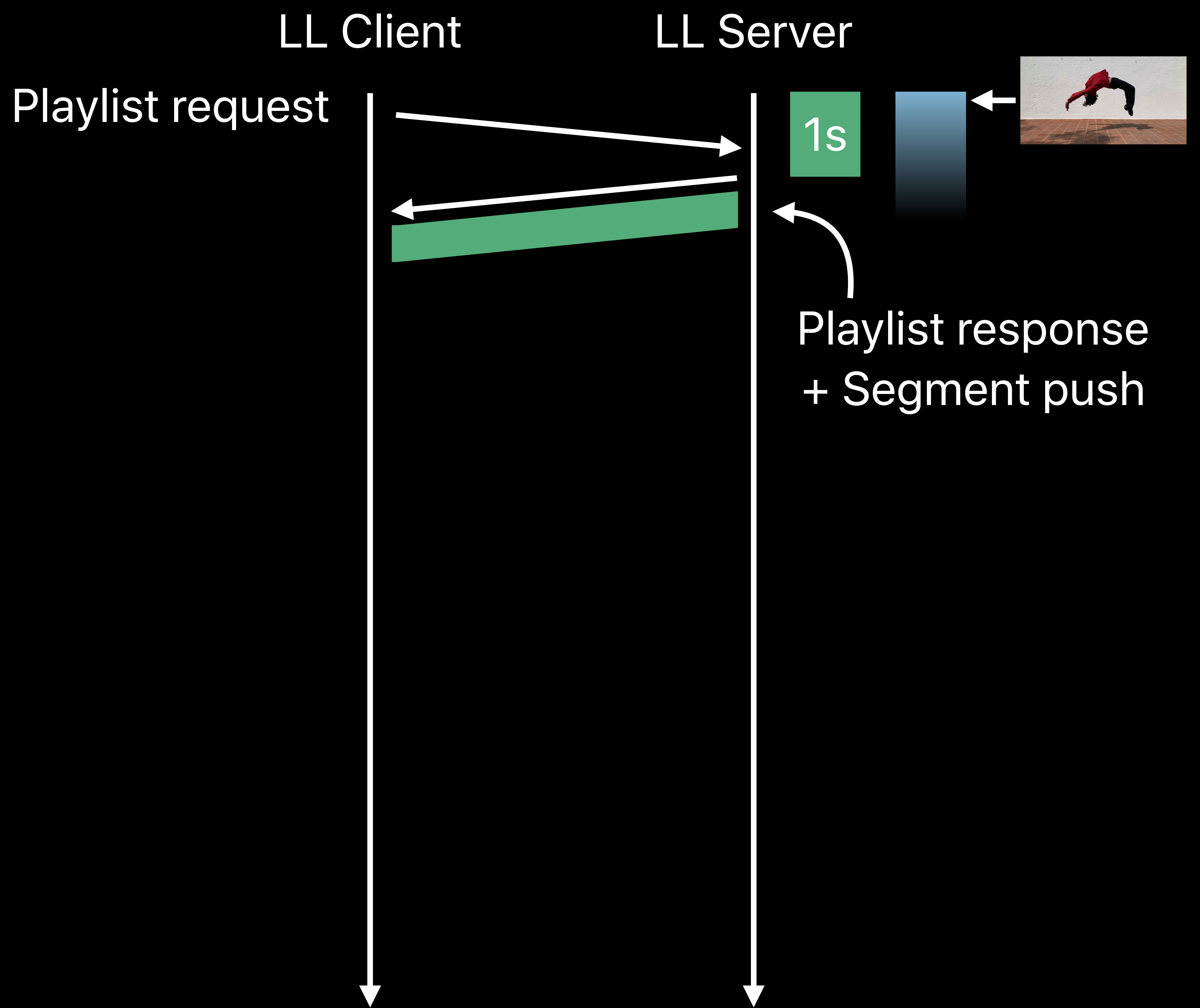
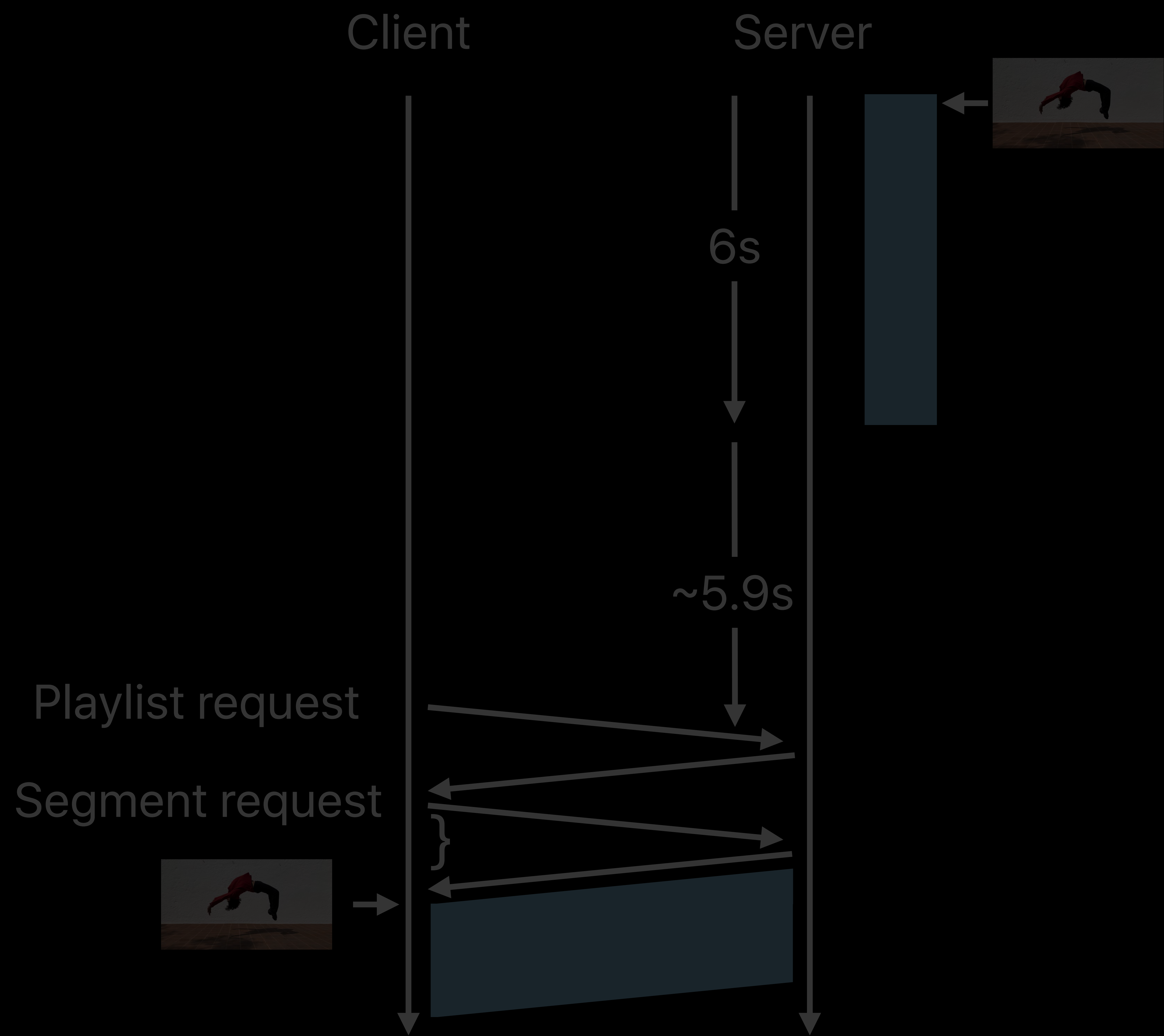
1s



Reduce Publishing Latency

Optimize Discovery

Eliminate Round Trips

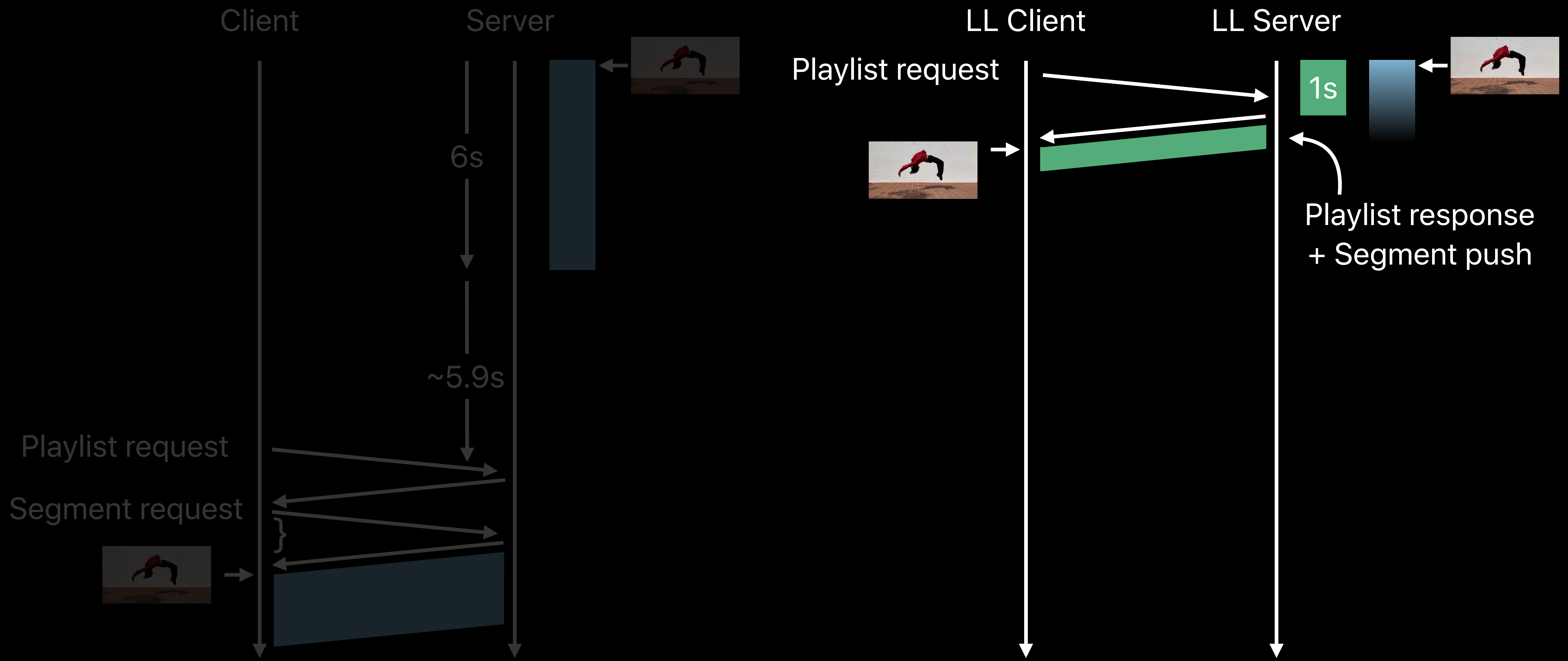




Reduce Publishing Latency

Optimize Discovery

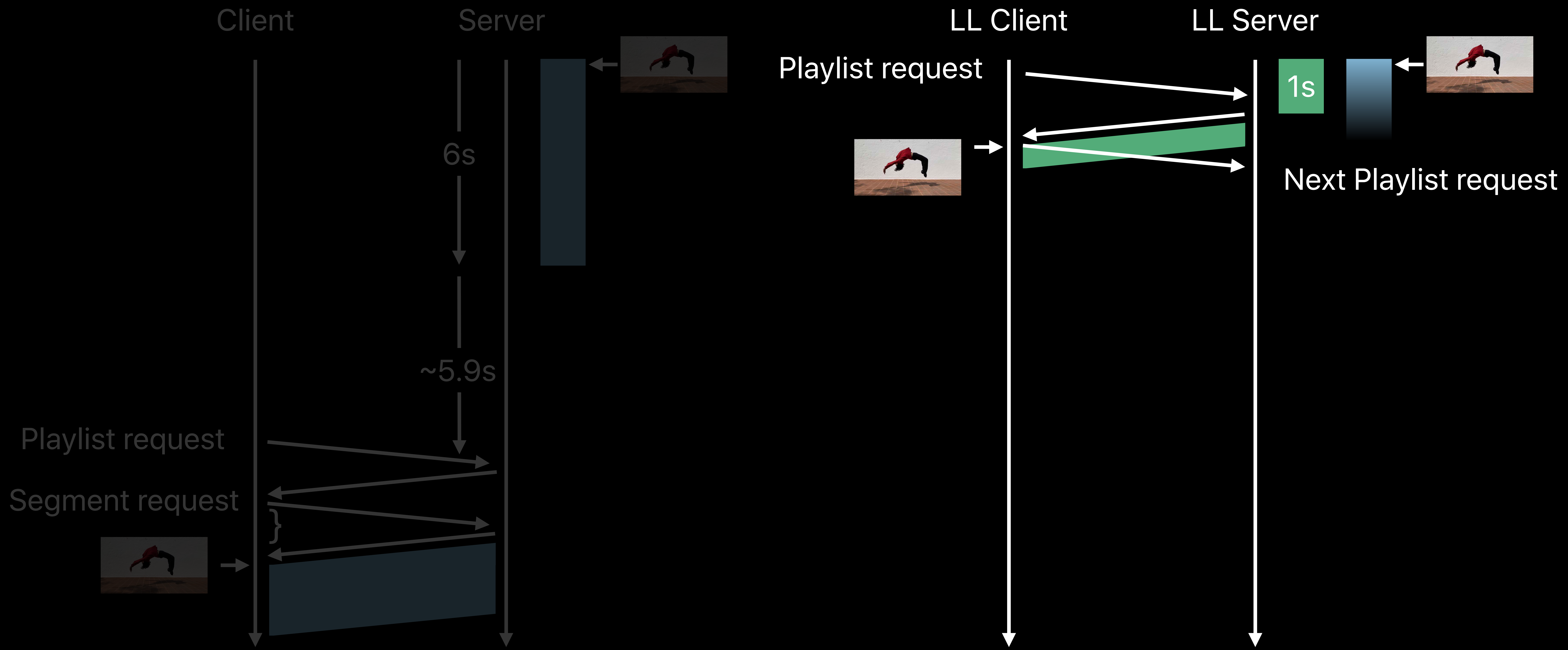
Eliminate Round Trips



Reduce Publishing Latency

Optimize Discovery

Eliminate Round Trips



# Playlist Delta Updates

Reduce Transfer Overhead

# Playlist Delta Updates

Reduce Transfer Overhead

EXT-X-SERVER-CONTROL with CAN-SKIP-UNTIL attribute

# Playlist Delta Updates

Reduce Transfer Overhead

EXT-X-SERVER-CONTROL with CAN-SKIP-UNTIL attribute

Clients asks for Delta Update explicitly



# Playlist Delta Updates

Reduce Transfer Overhead

EXT-X-SERVER-CONTROL with CAN-SKIP-UNTIL attribute

Clients asks for Delta Update explicitly

Update skips the earlier part of Playlist client already has

# The new EXT-X-SKIP Tag

```
GET https://example.com/1M/live.m3u8? HLS_skip=YES
```

```
#EXTM3U
```

```
#EXT-X-VERSION:9
```

```
#EXT-X-SERVER-CONTROL:CAN-SKIP-UNTIL=36.0
```

```
#EXT-X-TARGETDURATION:6
```

```
#EXT-X-MEDIA-SEQUENCE:100
```

```
#EXT-X-SKIP:SKIPPED-SEGMENTS=1700
```

```
#EXTINF 6.0,
```

```
segment1800.ts
```

```
#EXTINF 6.0,
```

```
segment1801.ts
```

```
#EXTINF 6.0,
```

```
segment1802.ts
```

```
...
```

# The new EXT-X-SKIP Tag

GET [https://example.com/1M/live.m3u8?HLS\\_skip=YES](https://example.com/1M/live.m3u8?HLS_skip=YES)

#EXTM3U

#EXT-X-VERSION:9

#EXT-X-SERVER-CONTROL:CAN-SKIP-UNTIL=36.0

#EXT-X-TARGETDURATION:6

#EXT-X-MEDIA-SEQUENCE:100

#EXT-X-SKIP:SKIPPED-SEGMENTS=1700

#EXTINF 6.0,

segment1800.ts

#EXTINF 6.0,

segment1801.ts

#EXTINF 6.0,

segment1802.ts

...



# The new EXT-X-SKIP Tag

GET [https://example.com/1M/live.m3u8?HLS\\_skip=YES](https://example.com/1M/live.m3u8?HLS_skip=YES)

#EXTM3U

#EXT-X-VERSION:9

#EXT-X-SERVER-CONTROL:CAN-SKIP-UNTIL=36.0

#EXT-X-TARGETDURATION:6

#EXT-X-MEDIA-SEQUENCE:100

#EXT-X-SKIP:SKIPPED-SEGMENTS=1700

#EXTINF 6.0,

segment1800.ts

#EXTINF 6.0,

segment1801.ts

#EXTINF 6.0,

segment1802.ts

...

# Rendition Reports

[Switch Tiers Quickly](#)

# Rendition Reports

Switch Tiers Quickly

Playlist updates can carry up-to-date reports on peer Playlists

# Rendition Reports

Switch Tiers Quickly

Playlist updates can carry up-to-date reports on peer Playlists

- Last Media Sequence Number and last Partial Segment number

# Rendition Reports

Switch Tiers Quickly

Playlist updates can carry up-to-date reports on peer Playlists

- Last Media Sequence Number and last Partial Segment number
- Allows client to load latest Playlist when switching bit rates

# Requesting and receiving Rendition Reports

GET [https://example.com/1M/live.m3u8?\\_HLS\\_report=/2M/live.m3u8](https://example.com/1M/live.m3u8?_HLS_report=/2M/live.m3u8)

# Requesting and receiving Rendition Reports

GET https://example.com/1M/live.m3u8?\_HLS\_report=/2M/live.m3u8

#EXTM3U

#EXT-X-RENDITION-REPORT:URI="/2M/live.m3u8",LAST-MSN=1801,LAST-PART=0

#EXT-X-TARGETDURATION:6

#EXT-X-MEDIA-SEQUENCE:1800

#EXTINF 6.0,

segment73.ts

...

Putting It All Together





NORTH  
AMERICA

San Jose

NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN





NORTH  
AMERICA

  
San Jose

NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN



***Demo***

# How To Get Started

# App Adoption

```
// Discover and adjust distance from live  
  
var item = myAVPlayerItem()  
var howFarNow = item.configuredTimeOffsetFromLive
```

```
// Discover and adjust distance from live  
  
var item = myAVPlayerItem()  
var howFarNow = item.configuredTimeOffsetFromLive
```

```
// Discover and adjust distance from live

var item = myAVPlayerItem()
var howFarNow = item.configuredTimeOffsetFromLive
var recommended = item.recommendedTimeOffsetFromLive
```



```
// Discover and adjust distance from live

var item = myAVPlayerItem()
var howFarNow = item.configuredTimeOffsetFromLive
var recommended = item.recommendedTimeOffsetFromLive

if ( howFarNow < recommended ) {
    item.configuredTimeOffsetFromLive = recommended
}
```

```
// Discover and adjust distance from live

var item = myAVPlayerItem()
var howFarNow = item.configuredTimeOffsetFromLive
var recommended = item.recommendedTimeOffsetFromLive

if ( howFarNow < recommended ) {
    item.configuredTimeOffsetFromLive = recommended
}

// Maintain position of playhead relative to live edge after rebuffer
item.automaticallyPreservesTimeOffsetFromLive = YES
```

```
// Discover and adjust distance from live

var item = myAVPlayerItem()
var howFarNow = item.configuredTimeOffsetFromLive
var recommended = item.recommendedTimeOffsetFromLive

if ( howFarNow < recommended ) {
    item.configuredTimeOffsetFromLive = recommended
}

// Maintain position of playhead relative to live edge after rebuffer
item.automaticallyPreservesTimeOffsetFromLive = YES
```

# Configure Your CDN

# Configure Your CDN

Deliver HLS via HTTP/2

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Deliver HLS via HTTP/2

- Support HTTP/2 Push

# Configure Your CDN

Deliver HLS via HTTP/2

- Support HTTP/2 Push
- Support HTTP/2 dependency and weighting



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Each server must vend all bit rate tiers

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- Support HTTP/2 Push
- Support HTTP/2 dependency and weighting

Each server must vend all bit rate tiers

CDN must aggregate duplicate pending requests to origin

# Configure Your CDN

Deliver HLS via HTTP/2

- Support HTTP/2 Push
- Support HTTP/2 dependency and weighting

Each server must vend all bit rate tiers

CDN must aggregate duplicate pending requests to origin

- "Reader while writer" in Apache Traffic Server

# Implement Your Origin

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Spec for Low-Latency HLS is available today

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- Currently a separate draft

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- Currently a separate draft
- Will be merged into core HLS spec later this year



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- Currently a separate draft
- Will be merged into core HLS spec later this year

Server Configuration Profile

# Implement Your Origin

Spec for Low-Latency HLS is available today

- Currently a separate draft
- Will be merged into core HLS spec later this year

Server Configuration Profile

- Required features of Low-Latency servers

# Reference Implementation

# Reference Implementation

“Low-Latency HLS Beta Tools”

# Reference Implementation

“Low-Latency HLS Beta Tools”

Create Playlists with Segments and Partial Segments

# Reference Implementation

“Low-Latency HLS Beta Tools”

Create Playlists with Segments and Partial Segments

PHP front-end implements Origin API

# Reference Implementation

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Create Playlists with Segments and Partial Segments

PHP front-end implements Origin API

- Blocking Playlist Reload



# Reference Implementation

“Low-Latency HLS Beta Tools”

Create Playlists with Segments and Partial Segments

PHP front-end implements Origin API

- Blocking Playlist Reload
- Playlist Delta Updates

# Reference Implementation

“Low-Latency HLS Beta Tools”

Create Playlists with Segments and Partial Segments

PHP front-end implements Origin API

- Blocking Playlist Reload
- Playlist Delta Updates
- Rendition Reports

# Beta in 2019

# Beta in 2019

App entitlement `com.apple.developer.coremedia.hls.low-latency`

# Beta in 2019

App entitlement `com.apple.developer.coremedia.hls.low-latency`

- Development

# Beta in 2019

App entitlement `com.apple.developer.coremedia.hls.low-latency`

- Development
- TestFlight distribution

# Summary



# Summary

Read the spec

- [https://developer.apple.com/documentation/http\\_live\\_streaming/protocol\\_extension\\_for\\_low\\_latency\\_hls](https://developer.apple.com/documentation/http_live_streaming/protocol_extension_for_low_latency_hls)

# Summary

Read the spec

- [https://developer.apple.com/documentation/http\\_live\\_streaming/protocol\\_extension\\_for\\_low\\_latency\\_hls](https://developer.apple.com/documentation/http_live_streaming/protocol_extension_for_low_latency_hls)

Try out the beta

# Summary

Read the spec

- [https://developer.apple.com/documentation/http\\_live\\_streaming/protocol\\_extension\\_for\\_low\\_latency\\_hls](https://developer.apple.com/documentation/http_live_streaming/protocol_extension_for_low_latency_hls)

Try out the beta

Build your packager and origin

# More Information

[developer.apple.com/wwdc19/502](https://developer.apple.com/wwdc19/502)

---

HTTP Live Streaming Lab

Thursday, 4:00

---

HTTP Live Streaming Lab 2

Friday, 11:00

---

 WWDC19